



- This is the only time in Scripture that we hear of Jesus rejoicing during His life on earth.
- Scripture speaks often of His joy throughout eternity.
- John 15:11 – *“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”*
- In John 17:13, Jesus prays that His followers will have *His* joy.
- Hebrews 12:2 – *“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*
- However, this is the Scripture’s reference to our Lord rejoicing on earth.
- Thus, there are precious insights in this text revealed with unique power and glory.
- Few translations convey the extent of the joy described here.
- The word translated “filled with joy” here is “**avgallia, w,**” which means “feeling and expressing supreme joy, or rejoicing exceedingly.”
- The NASB is closest, saying *“At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit...”*
- However, in my opinion, the best translation of verse 21 would be something like this: *“At that time, Jesus was completely thrilled in the Holy Spirit.”*

- What could be the cause of such tremendous rejoicing from our Lord?
- **Big Idea: Jesus rejoices in exalting the humble.**
- Read Luke 10:21-24

-- Pray

1.) Jesus rejoices in empowering the humble.

-- v. 21 – “*At that time...*”

-- Recall the context:

-- Jesus had just brought salvation through 72 ordinary disciples.

-- Notice: These 72 men are nowhere even named.

-- Also, the fact that they were often rejected on this journey is clear evidence that they had no worldly influence or status

-- Jesus had just overcome the terrible power Satan and his demons by working salvation through these ordinary men.

-- **Video – 1980 Olympics: US Hockey upsets Russia.**

-- Everybody roots for the underdog, because few joys are as thrilling as good prevailing over evil in a massive upset.

-- This is the theme of every Arnold Schwarzenegger movie.

-- This is a great part of the thrill and allure of the story of David vs. Goliath, is it not?

But the victory of these disciples isn't make-believe. It is not on a movie screen. It is real. And there is much more than an athletic trophy is on the line. This is a matter of life and death. And it is not just an everyday case of a life and death. No... eternal life is on the line in this war. And although these battles were played out on the hills and plains of Judea, they were at the same time the most passionate preoccupation of all the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. And even though these 72 ordinary men were sent out against the full array of the mighty and dreadful powers of hell—powers that would kill them without remorse and powers that fought against them tooth and nail for every lost soul—even against these terrifying powers of evil, this awesome evil was utterly trampled asunder by simple servants of Christ.

By the light of Christ flashing from within them and through the thunderous message of the Gospel that they proclaimed, Satan was falling like lightning from the heavens. Arnold Schwarzenegger never overcame an opponent so fierce. Not even David's victory over Goliath was so grand an upset. This was a case of simple people, empowered by Christ, overcoming the history's fiercest opponent, and overcoming him soundly. US hockey over Russia is not even close to the glory of this upset win. And while these disciples heard no raucous applause, and

although there was no standing ovation for them on earth, there was a festival of great joy in heaven.

And even as these 72 disciples rejoiced in the power of Christ at work in them, Jesus rejoiced with them. Even as they celebrated, saying, *“Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name,”* Jesus was thrilled to see the awesome effects of His power at work in them. He had taken 72 ordinary men and strengthened them to overcome Satan and used them to redeem forever people who had been held captive in sin. This was the ultimate joy of the underdog. This was the joy of Jesus Christ, for our Lord rejoices in empowering the humble.

2.) Jesus rejoices in enlightening the humble.

-- God hides Himself from the proud.

-- v. 21b – *“I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned.”*

-- First, let’s be sure we understand what this does not mean.

-- It does not mean that God withholds truth from people who are intelligent or educated.

-- It doesn't mean that thinking clearly and wisely is not important.

-- Matthew 22:37 – *“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your... mind.’”*

-- It means that human intelligence will never earn anyone salvation.

-- This is an explicit condemnation of the intellectual elitists of the day who thought spiritual truth was only for superior minds.

-- Romans 1:22 – *“Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools.”*

-- The same attitude is rampant today.

-- Expelled clip.

-- 1 Corinthians 1:17-31 – (Turn there and explain.)

-- A heart filled with pride will never find God.

-- James 4:6 – *“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*

-- Isaiah 5:21 – *“Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.”*

-- v. 22 – *“No one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”*

-- Jesus simply chooses not to reveal Himself to people who boast in their intelligence and are wise in their own eyes.

-- He hides Himself from the proud, because in the end only God will receive glory.

-- God reveals Himself to the humble.

-- v. 21 – “...and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.”

-- “Little children” refers to people who come to Christ in humility.

-- The word translated “small child” here is the Greek word “*nh, pioj*,” which means “baby, infant, child.”

-- A toddler is an excellent illustration of a believer in God’s Kingdom.

-- Just like toddlers, the redeemed have no wisdom in which to boast before God.

-- Like toddlers, they are completely dependent upon Him.

-- How do the humble come to Christ?

-- Remember the first Beatitude from Luke 6...

Luke 6:20 – “*Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.*”

By “poor” here Jesus is not talking about those without worldly possessions, but about those who understand and acknowledge their personal spiritual poverty. In other words, the blessed are those who recognize the bankrupt condition of their souls. They understand that they completely lack the resources necessary to purchase God's favor.

Those who Christ calls blessed realize that salvation simply cannot be the result of our good deeds, kind words, or righteous acts. It will never come through our ceremonies, rituals, or “religious-ness.” The blessed are those who comprehend that, at the end of the day, no matter how much human good they may have done, no matter how much religion they can claim, no matter how many ceremonies they may go through, they are totally bankrupt nonetheless. They know, in their heart of hearts, that their own personal righteousness has no power whatsoever to purchase their salvation.

And Jesus calls them blessed? Why? Because our Lord rejoices to reveal Himself to the humble. We hear this joy in the words of Christ from our text this morning, when He says, “*I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.*”

Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.” Jesus here is rejoicing in the fact that the humble understand and accept what the so-called “elites” reject in their intellectual pride.

- Luke 14:11 – *“Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*
- This is a central theme in the book of Luke.
- This exact statement is repeated in Luke 18:14.
- Isaiah 57:15 – *“For this is what the high and lofty One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: ‘I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.’”*
- Jesus rejoices in lifting up the humble in heart, and He will lift them higher than they could possibly imagine.
- The Son rejoices that the Father has designed a plan of salvation by which man must be humbled so that God will be glorified in everything.

-- Application

- Hate pride, especially intellectual pride.
- Proverbs 26:12 – *“Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”*
- Proverbs 3:7 – *“Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.”*
- Proverbs 8:13 – *“To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.”*
- Cherish humility in all things.
- This ought to be the perspective of our daily lives.
- 1 Peter 5:5-6 – *“All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.”*
- This ought to be the perspective of our church.
- Ephesians 4:1-2 – *“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”*
- This ought to be the perspective in child raising.
- Down with self-esteem; up with God-esteem.

- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 – *“I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*
- Humility might just be the most important human characteristic.
 - You cannot know God or honor Him without it.
 - God rejoices to see it in us, and He reveals Himself to those who walk in it.
 - *Are we pursuing humility in our lives?*
 - *Are we intentional about fostering it in our children?*

Jesus rejoices in exalting the humble. He is thrilled to empower the lowly and enlighten the meek. Therefore, if we would be empowered by Christ, then we must be emptied of arrogance. If we would find God, then we must forfeit self. If we would bring joy to heaven, we must be humble on earth. *“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up”* (James 4:10).