



SUMMER JOY

Psalm 37:4; John 13:1 – 5

June 25, 2023

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MESSAGE NOTES

*... being strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;
— Colossians 1:11 (ESV)*

Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. — Psalm 37:4

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights ... — James 1:17 (ESV)

God shouts to us in our pain and whispers to us in our pleasure. — C.S. Lewis

And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good ... — Genesis 1:31 (ESV)

There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, — Ecclesiastes 2:24 (ESV)

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside His outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist. Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. — John 13:1 – 5 (ESV)

*When He had washed their feet and put on His outer garments and resumed His place, He said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you ... If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.
— John 13:12 – 17 (ESV)*

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, — Acts 2:46 (ESV)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. — Philippians 4:4 (ESV)

WE DO NOT MAKE PLEASURE OUR GOD, BUT INSTEAD WE MAKE GOD OUR PLEASURE



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion Starter: Share a time when you laughed really loud recently or observed someone else laughing and what they were laughing at.
- Read Psalm 37:4. Describe how God gives us the desires of our heart according to this verse? What does that look like in everyday life?
- C.S. Lewis once said, *"God shouts to us in our pain and whispers to us in our pleasure."* How is have you seen that lived out in your life?
- The words "joy" and "happiness" appear over 400 times in the Bible. In light of so much joy mentioned in the Bible, why do some people see Christianity as a joy-killer rather than a joy-maker? What is the correct view and why?
- What was your biggest take away from the message this week?
- Read Ecclesiastes 2:24. What are ways we can "enjoy the fruit of our labor" and connect joy with fun this summer?
- Read Philippians 4:4 four times out loud. Share some things you are rejoicing in right now in Christ? What are some things you are thankful for?
- Why is it so important to serve others while serving Christ with joy? How is Christ an example of that?
- What are the key differences between "making pleasure our God and making God our pleasure?"