

## My joy Your joy, Your joy Full joy

### I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2 Reasons to Rejoice: kicks off tomorrow night. Book of Romans.
- B. Slide3 Missions Class/*Preparing to Go*: 4-week series. Discuss CM heart/vision. Share opportunities to participate in the Great Commission. *Required for missions trips. Start dates on either Oct or Nov.*
- C. Slide4 Visual Team: Volunteers needed. Presenting worship lyrics & lighting controls. Training provided.

### II. Slide5,6 **Intro:** My joy Your joy, Your joy Full joy

- A. We are still talking about *bearing spiritual fruit* in our lives. (9 listed in Gal.5)
  - 1. The 1st 2 being...love & joy (see in this ch.) #3 peace (last ch.)
- B. Remember *abide* is our key word in this section. You know how to *abide* (pull out phone)
- C. Slide7 Nomophobia [**no-mobile-phone-phobia**] it's *the fear of not having your phone with you*. Fear of having no signal, no battery, traveling internationally w/o reception.
- D. So we know how to *abide in, spend time with, be tethered to, or connected to*. We take it with us...*everywhere*.
  - 1. Did you know *the Greek word* for *smartphone* is *beelzebub*? (no, it's *android*)
  - 2. We all know the problem isn't with the phone but with the human heart.
  - 3. Average screen time per day? Brazilians #1 @ 4:48 minutes. Chinese 2nd @ 3:03. Americans #3 @ 2:37.
    - a) Check out *your screen-time* average [settings > screen time (1st thing you see)]
      - (1) I like that it is broken down: *social network, reading & ref, productivity*.
      - b) My daily average was **1:59**. I know how to *abide* with my phone very well.
  - 4. Thus, we know how to *abide* with *Jesus*. We just *remain tethered to, connected to, spend time with and take Him with*...us *everywhere*.

### III. Slide8a **LOVE & JOY. FRIENDS & FRUIT (9-17)**

- A. Here we see: **abiding** depends on **obeying**. **Obeying** depends on **loving**. **And love & joy** go together to help us **obey**.
- B. **MY LOVE** (9,10)
- C. **My love** - The **Father** loves the **Son**. The **Son** loves **us**. **We** love **others**.
- D. **Slide8b MY JOY** (11)
- E. Many imagine **obedience** to Christ is **burdensome** because of its **self-surrender, sacrifice, & service**, **but** Jesus teaches the opposite associating **obedience** w/**joy**.<sup>1</sup>
1. Like a **flag** that flies over the castle **when the King is on the throne**, so **JOY** will stand over **your life** as a testimony that **Jesus reigns in your heart**.
- F. (10,11) If you are attached to **another vine** you will not have **joy**.
1. If your **career** is your vine you will **not** have **joy** (if **politics** is your vine you will **not** have **joy**, if **health...** if **marriage...** if **kids**).
    - a) If **Jesus** is your vine, you will have **joy** and **fruitfulness**.
  2. You can't expect **green grapes** from a **red grape vine**.
- G. (11) So I think He's saying, (fast) **My joy your joy, your joy full joy** (ie. wholly matured joy).
- H. **My joy** - **What was Jesus Joy?** (happy slappy joy? **nope**)
1. **Slide8c** Heb.12:1 **looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the JOY that was set before Him endured the cross.**
  2. **His joy** was in being **the instrument of redemption** for the world.
  3. **His joy** was in **being used by God** to further the **eternal purposes** of God.
    - a) **We can have Joy** in the same: being an instrument in the hand of God **&** in helping to further His purposes.
  4. **Joy** is dependence on **God & not on circumstances**.
  5. **Joy** when your **health** is slipping, when your **business** is failing, Joy in the midst of **opposition**, in the midst of **unemployment**, When a loved one **passes away**, when a **boyfriend/girlfriend** says goodbye for good.
- I. **Slide9a FRIEND STATUS** (12-17)

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<sup>1</sup> Geneva Bible

- J. (12) This section begins & ends w/*Love one another* (12,17)
1. It is a **command** to love. A **decision** not a **feeling**.
    - a) It is a decision to **continually seek** *the highest good of others*.
    - b) We aren't to love others on the basis of their inherent goodness or external attractiveness, but on the basis of *the example Jesus set for us*.<sup>2</sup>
  2. He **doesn't** say, *I command you to generate feelings for one another*.
- K. Up to this point Jesus said, *love your neighbors as you love yourself* (Lk.10:27)  
 Now, He gives the disciples a new commandment based on *a different comparison*.  
 They are to love each other *as Jesus loved them*.
1. Slide9b Jesus loved them **unconditionally**: He loved them in their **unbelief** (Mt.14:31) He loved them in their **pettiness** (Mt.18:1-6) He loved them in their **desertion** (Mt.26:31) He loved them in their **denial** (Mt.26:33,34) He loved them in their **laziness** (Mt.26:36-46) He loved them in their **betrayal** (26:47-50) He loved them **to the end** (Jn.13:1)<sup>3</sup>
- L. (13) All time classic - *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends*. [The *greatest love* involves **sacrifice**]
1. As Jesus did for us on the cross...you can now put your lives on the line for others. Which can mean *physically*, but also can mean *death-to-self, death-to-my way*. To set aside *my rights or possessions* for others.
- M. (13) In Disney's *The Jungle Book* movie (1967). *Bagheera* (panther) quotes this verse to comfort *Mowgli* (jungle boy) when they thought *Baloo* (bear) had died saving *Mowgli's* life.
1. John says it again in 1Jn.3:16, **By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**
  2. Now in vs.13 their relationship moves to a deeper level - **beyond discipleship to friendship**.
- N. How often have we heard of a **firefighter** or a **police officer** who had given his life in the call of duty. [**Even greater a love** is laying down your life for your **enemies**]

<sup>2</sup> Charles Swindoll, John, vol.3, pg.10

<sup>3</sup> ibid, pg.10

1. Slide9c Rom.5:7,8 For scarcely for a **righteous man** will one die; yet perhaps for a **good man** someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.

O. This is speaking of **love as a lifestyle** not only as a **once & for all** event.

1. Think of laying down your life as **a continual process**.

P. **Friends not Servants** (14,15)

Q. **A friend does what?** - a friend helps. (dict.) *a person whom one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection. One who is on the same side.*

1. Did you know that **friend** is an Old English word, of Germanic origin; from an Indo-European root meaning **'to love'**.

R. **How many wish you had a good friend? I have called you friends.**

1. God came all the way from his throne **to be your friend**.
2. **Some of you still have a master/slave view of God**. I pray for your freedom, your release from maybe a legalistic upbringing, from the bondage of this.
  - a) **This manifests itself different ways**. Like when something **hard** happens to you... you think God is **punishing** you...**No, the Love of God is pruning you**.
3. **See**, we'll always do more for **love than** we will for **fear**. More for **friends than** we will for **Masters**.
  - a) And it has to do with **knowing vs. not knowing**. (eg. working in the yard growing up. when dad told me "why" we were doing something vs. when he didn't. **We're building a fence to separate our 2 male dogs that keep fighting [Bongo/Barron] vs. Move this pile of lumber over there. why? cuz I said so**)

S. Not an **acquaintance** but a **friend**.

1. **Acquaintances** are people who know us on the **outside**, on the **surface**.
2. **Friends** are people who know us on the **inside**: *our joys, hurts, failures, the secret plans of our lives, soul secrets*.
3. Look how Jesus let these 11 **into** His life. Sharing his **future secrets** w/them. Sharing His own **struggles, pains, & emotion** w/them.

T. (16) He chose you for a **friend**. He chose you for *friendship*.

1. Friends take two people, **but** one must *initiate*. Why did God initiate? *Because he's good*. **But** he picks some really bad people? That's because *he's good*.
2. God is a *loving, gracious, pursuing, relational* God.

U. **Slide10a FRUIT** (16,17)

V. The **goal** of the Christian life is not just to *go to heaven* when you die...**but** to be **fruitful** **until** you die. *mdm*

1. Retirement from your work? *no problem*, congrats. **But** you don't retire EVER from *bearing fruit*...**until** you die.

W. That your fruit should **abide/continue/remain** - **How?** because it's all sourced in **Jesus**. He's the *author* of your faith (and the *finisher*) [or originator & perfecter]

1. This is fruit that **won't spoil!** New on the market, **Apeel**. [apeelsciences.com]
2. **Slide10b Apeel** adds a **layer** of *plant-derived protection* to the surface of fresh produce to slow water loss and oxidation - *the factors that cause spoilage*. [currently around half of all food grown ends up in a landfill] Simply using peels to protect. The materials that make up skins and peels are found everywhere. They use *the building blocks of peels* to protect fresh produce.
  - a) So I say if *man* can make fruit last...I think **God** can :)
3. They say the church should be **a community of Dates** instead of **Pumpkins**.
  - a) **Pumpkins** you can harvest in 6 months. **Dates** have to be planted and tended by people who will not live to harvest them. **Dates** are for future generations.

X. **Interesting**, He keeps connecting *fruit-filled-lives* w/answered prayer. *Hmmm*

Y. (17) For **fruit**, always go back to the **root**. Then root command is *love*.

1. **Slide10c** Remember the experiment as a child, with **celery & colored water?** It demonstrated the movement of water through a plant.
2. If **love** ascends through the **root**, up through **the vine**, through us **the branch**, it produces the **fruit** of **love**. *Love one another*.

#### IV. Slide 11a **WHEN TWO WORLDS COLLIDE (18-25)**

- A. In the new iphone update you can switch its *appearance* from **light** to **dark**...that's what happens here from vs.17 to 18. [from **love** to **hate**]
- B. (18) **If the world hates you** - and it did already in that 1st century.  
*The Christians were considered...*
1. **Bad Citizens** – wouldn't confess Caesar as Lord. Thus branded them disloyal & dangerous. **Cannibals** – they ate bodies & drank blood in a private meal. **Promiscuous** – love feasts, kiss of peace. **Dooms Day Disciples** – talked of *the end*, the 2nd coming. **Against Family** – divided families, split homes, marriages
- C. **Hated me before it hated you** - The Jewish religious leaders were already plotting to arrest and kill Jesus.
- D. **Slide 11b The World** = human society organizing itself w/o God.
1. There is bound to be a huge divide between *a group that regards God as the only reality in life* & the man who regards God as *totally irrelevant* for life.
  2. *The world dislikes those who are different...from them.*
- E. **Slide 11c** There is a distinction between **this world** and **His kingdom**.
1. The term **culture** is the label anthropologists give to the *structured customs and underlying worldview assumptions* which people govern their lives.<sup>4</sup>
  2. *At the top* Surface level Culture (patterned behavior). *bottom* Deep level Culture (world view assumptions)
  3. At the heart of a **culture** is the shared *beliefs, feelings and values* of a community of people.<sup>5</sup> Paul Hiebert, Perspectives, pg.375
  4. There is no such thing as my culture is better than your culture. There is no godly culture. All culture has some bad/worldly. Sociology would tell us that all cultures are neutral and sacred. But they are not neutral but sinful.
    - a) *One culture it's rare to marry, but have a lot of children w/multiple women. Our culture says that's wrong. There culture looks at us & says, at least we raise our children and don't kill them off in abortion. touché*
    - b) **We are all ethnocentric** - we evaluate our other cultures based on ours.

<sup>4</sup> Charles Kraft, Perspectives, pg.385

<sup>5</sup> Paul Hiebert, Perspectives, pg.375

c) I think of my 1st time in **India** eating *rice & curry* with my hands which seemed **crude & dirty** (even though we eat *carrots, chips & sandwiches* w/ours).  
*Yet* our host explained, we enjoy our food w/not only **taste** but **sight & touch**...*why would you want to use a fork or spoon that has been in other peoples mouths? I wash my hands carefully...and it has not been in anyone else's mouth :)*

5. **Here's my point**...we need to think **NOT as residents of this world but as citizens of His Kingdom**. [get above it. kingdom down, not culture up] *mdm*
- Sometimes it feels like **butterflies** living with **caterpillars**, *dwelling on 2 diff planes*
  - We need to think like missionaries**...going into any culture where some thoughts and behaviors will be **ungodly &** to bring **the word of God there**. *Thy Kingdom come.*

- F. **Slide12 (20)** **They will also persecute you** - Christianity is the most persecuted religion on the planet. **Christianity is illegal or severely restricted in 51 different countries**.
- More than **43 million** Christians have been killed for their faith since the crucifixion of Jesus.
  - More Christians have been martyred in the **20th Century** than in all the prior 1,900 years combined. [100,000 Christians are martyred each yr]

## V. **Slide13a BEARING WITNESS (26,27)**

- A. (26) Our testimony is backed up by the HS testifying through us.
- B. **Slide13b (27)** **Saving knowledge** is diffused over the earth, **not like sunlight** but like **torchlight**, which is *passed from hand to hand*.<sup>6</sup> James Strachan
- Just open your mouth & tell about what God has done for you.
  - Christian witness comes from **long fellowship & intimacy** w/Christ.
- C. **A witness is one w/an outward testimony**.
- A Christian witness is a man who not only knows Christ but who wants others to know Him too.**

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<sup>6</sup> James Strachan, Leadership, Vol. 7, no. 2.