

Behold the God Who Inspires Unexpected Joy

Wyatt Martin // December 12, 2021

Luke 2:10; Matthew 5:11-12; Philippians 4:10-13

Big Idea: Christmas reveals the God who inspires unexpected joy.

Question: What is one of the happiest memories you have?

“And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for **behold**, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.’” **Luke 2:10**

Joy from God is a deep and abiding recognition of God’s goodness and presence.

Joy from God comes in unexpected circumstances.

Myth #1: I’ll have a life of joy when this hard season is finally over.

Paul: I am “...sorrowful, yet always rejoicing...” **2 Corinthians 6:10**

Matthew 5:11-12a

Myth #2: I’ll have a life of joy when I finally get what I want.

Philippians 4:10-13

Joy is found by beholding God’s presence in your life.

3. Read **2 Corinthians 6:3-10**. How do you make sense of the concept of being “sorrowful, yet always rejoicing” (**vs.10**)? Have you ever experienced this?

4. What are some ways that you have been enticed by either of the “myths” from today’s message? How can you **grow** in seeking joy through beholding the goodness and presence of God? (Details on the “myths” can be found in the message notes in the ACC App or at alderwood.cc/messages.)

5. Often **going** towards others in the name of Jesus is one of the ways we experience the joy of God’s presence with us. When, if ever, have you experienced this in your life?