

# Carriers of Joy

34 - Ephesians: Rise Up & Walk  
Church on the Park | Mother's Day - Sunday, 12 May 2019

**Text:** "For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 14:17).

**Theme:** You are called to be a carrier of joy wherever you go.

**Intro:** In my last message, I talked about being carriers of God's Kingdom. Today, I want to be more specific. To be a carrier of God's Kingdom means to be a carrier of joy. Notice how in our verse above that righteousness, peace and joy are intertwined. The Kingdom of God is seen and manifested in righteousness, peace and joy. And not our own righteousness, peace and joy—but rather the righteousness, peace and joy that comes from the Holy Spirit within us. We are reminded that the Pharisees had a form of righteousness, but it lacked God's peace and joy. It was a sour and mean-spirited righteousness—an outward righteousness. But the Kingdom's righteousness, peace and joy far exceeds our ability to produce these things.

## 1) One of the greatest gifts you can minister to people is joy (Luke 1:34-45).

- Let's look at **Mary's** encounter with **Elizabeth**.
  - At this point, Mary is **carrying** Jesus in her womb.
    - We also are meant to carry **Jesus** within us.
      - And when you **carry Jesus** within you, you **bring joy** to your fellow believers.
  - "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby **leaped** in her womb [John the Baptist]; and Elizabeth was **filled with the Holy Spirit**...For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for **joy**" (Luke 1:41, 44).
    - Mary **carried joy** with her. The joy that was **within her—Jesus**—was **contagious**.
  - About Jesus, the Psalms say, "You have **loved righteousness** and **hated wickedness**; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed you with the **oil of joy** above your fellows" (Ps 45:7).
    - This verse shows us the **reason** Jesus was anointed with the oil of joy.
      - He loved what was **right** and hated what was **wrong**.
        - In other words, his **mind** and **heart** was **aligned** with God.
      - This verse can be applied to all of us: **God anoints** those who love what is right and hate what is wrong.
        - The **oil of joy is for you**. And this oil will distinguish you from those around you.
  - **Joy** is one of the most important **elements** of your **witness** of Christ.

## 2) You will live in joy as you live a life overflowing with thanksgiving (Col. 2:7).

- "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and **overflowing with thankfulness**" (Col. 2:7, NIV).
  - You can live of life of **continual prayer** by overflowing with thankfulness.
    - In your heart, you can wake up thanking God for another day. Thank him for **every single good thing** you have received (James 1:17). Live in thanksgiving. And thank him most of all and continually for his **indescribable gift**—Jesus Christ.
      - "Thanks be to God for His **indescribable gift!**" (2 Cor. 9:15).
  - **Thanksgiving** is like **planting a hedge of protection** around your heart. It keeps the serpent from deceiving you.
    - **Adam & Eve** (Gen. 2:15-17)
  - Thankfulness is the **first step in "cultivating" and "keeping" the garden** of your soul, family and church.
    - "The Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die'" (Gen. 2:16-17).

- Most people when reading this verse, never focus on **the first part** of the command. Instead, they only read about what's **forbidden**.
  - Then, their minds and hearts get transfixed on why they should be **deprived of something**—something that actually looks good.
- Let's not lose sight of the **first part** of the command: "From **any tree** of the garden you may **eat freely**." This is the **good news**. You can eat from any tree. God has made all these trees for you to **enjoy**. There's **abundance** and **variety**. Look at how much you have been given.
  - If **Eve's heart** was **full of thanksgiving** for all that she had been given, she would not have been **persuaded** by the serpent.
    - The **serpent's tactic is**: you are being **deprived** of something. It was all about pointing out your **lack**.
- Thanksgiving **celebrates** the **abundance** God has given. And it keeps you from **coveting** what God has forbidden.
- Thanksgiving **honours** the Lord. It **recognises** what he has **given** and **who he is**.
  - "He who offers a sacrifice of **thanksgiving honors me**; and to him who orders [sets] his way aright I shall show the salvation of God" (Ps 50:23).
- Thanksgiving was so important that **David appointed ministers** who's job was to give thanks (Neh. 12:46; \***1 Chron. 16:4-8**).
  - In Hebrew, the word **praise and thanksgiving** are **very closely related**—thanksgiving can be the same word as praise (*yadah*) or it another form of the same word 'praise' (*todah* - thanks).
    - Living a **life of thanksgiving** is living a life of praising God.

### **3) Lastly, thank God for the seed and not just the tree (Matt. 15:32-39, Mark 8:6)**

- To see prophetically is to see **the tree in the seed**.
- **Don't complain** about the seed, rejoice in it. Thank God for it.
- **The Jesus' attitude** (found in Jesus feeding the four thousand - Matt. 15:32-39)
  - There's two attitudes that you can have: 1) There's too many people and not enough resources, or 2) Thank God for the people and what we do have.
    - The first attitude will cause you to complain; it may even cause you to steal.
    - The second attitude will move you to honour God and look to him for a miracle.
- "For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him" (Matt. 13:12; 25:29; Mark 4:25; Luke 9:1; 19:26).
  - How do you perceive your life? As having or as not having?
- The **oil of joy** will keep you **burning bright** before the **darkness** of Christ's return (Matt. 25:1-13).

**Conclusion:** Live a life of thanksgiving and you will be a carrier of joy.

CT Scan

Thankfulness from the heart.

God is both friendly and ferocious.

Thank God for the seed and not just the tree.

See the potential in the seed. See the harvest in the seed.

Jesus feeding the four thousand (Matt. 15:32-39; Mark 8:6).

Jeremiah 30:19

Romans 1:21

Lack of thanksgiving leads to lust and every kind of sin (Romans 1:21-32).

Israel Falou

These people don't believe in God or the Bible or hell—and yet when Israel quotes from the Bible they are offended and want to kick him out of the Rugby Union. Why get mad at something you think is a fairytale?

You have been given Christ—Christ is in you and you are in Christ. What more can be given?

"You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy above your fellows" (Ps 45:7).

Matt 25:1-13 - The Virgins and the Oil

It's only the oil of joy that will keep us burning through the darkness of the world.

Thank God for the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers Jesus died to give us. Thank the Father for the church Jesus died to bless us with.

Let thanksgiving come from your heart (Ps. 9:1; 86:12; 111:1; 138:1).

Let it be Jesus' thanksgiving in and through you.

Watch out for the disease of grumbling, complaining and bitterness.

Overflowing with thanksgiving.

The three times thanksgiving is mentioned in Ephesians.

If your heart is overflowing with thanksgiving, there will be no room for sin. Thanksgiving will be like a fountain that washes out the dirt.