



Glorious Moments: Moments of Joy

The presents of Christmas often bring a fleeting sense of happiness, but the presence of Jesus offers the lasting gift of supernatural joy.

Luke 1, 2

ILLUSTRATION

Glorious moments moments happen when we view our moments through the lens of God's greater plan. The thing about moments is they fade into memories.

This is the nature of every Christmas gift! The almost immediate loss of excitement once the gift is opened. I've observed this with my kids, and have obviously experienced it myself.

- You've longed for something
- You get something
- Momentary elation
- Fading appreciation over time
- What do I get next?

Yet this is what the world lives for and depends on to maintain some sense of worth, excitement, and life. It's what many people often equate to joy, but comes nowhere close to the biblical version of joy that only God can bring into a person's life. Don't get me wrong, it's not bad to find enjoyment in the blessings of this life, as long as we don't root our joy in those things.

Not all joys are equal. Life in this world hands you what I like to call "leaky joy." Almost as quickly as the world gives you pleasure, that pleasure leaks out.

- **EXAMPLE:** Pouring water on a towel. It loses most of the water and is left with a damp residue that serves as a fading memory.

- As soon as a moment occurs, it transforms into a memory. Moments pass, and memories fade, and the happiness, joy, and gladness they brought tend to fade along with them.

But Christmas teaches us there is a joy that can sustain a person through life and every circumstance because it's anchored in an unchanging reality. What we find:

QUOTE

“*Worldly happiness fluctuates with our circumstances, but a joy that is rooted in the Lord is a constant fountain that no worldly trouble can hinder.*”

Josh, Joy of Christmas

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Neh 8:9-12 NKJV] 9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day [is] holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law. 10 Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for [this] day [is] holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." 11 So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day [is] holy; do not be grieved." 12 And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

APPLICATION

The joy we have access to is not only a joy IN the Lord, but it is also a joy that belongs to the Lord that he gifts to us!

EXAMPLE: Old song, “The Joy of the Lord is My Strength.”

- If you want the joy you must clap for it, sing for it, dance for it...
- No, grace says, that the joy of the Lord is your strength because by his grace He gives it freely, we must simply choose to access it and walk in it.

CUSTOM

There is a reason why every letter from every apostle we have in the scripture all have references to the joy available to the believer.

- Paul speaks of rejoicing in the hope we have in Christ
- John speaks of having fulness of joy
- James speaks about having joy in the midst of trials
- Peter speaks of having joy inexpressible and full of glory

Joy is the essence of relationship with Christ. One author penned that:

QUOTE

“**Joy is the flag that flies over the castle of our hearts announcing that the King is in residence today.**”

Walter Knight

APPLICATION

Joy, Rejoice (257 times in scripture) – to be exceedingly glad

Of all people, there should none more joyful, glad and happy than the one who has been forgiven and redeemed by the blood of Jesus. The early disciples were identified by the joy that they possessed:

Act 13:52 NKJV – And all the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

But my life is miserable, my circumstances unbearable, my relationships intolerable...

- The Bible speaks of Joy that is [unconquerable, unspeakable, incomprehensible, inexpressible, full of glory and victorious](#). As Christians traveling like pilgrims through this world of sorrow, we can access this joy.

But let's be honest, this joy doesn't always feel accessible. It doesn't always come naturally. It has to be chosen and fought for.

Now, I'm not suggesting we give some insincere, fake it-till-you-make-it type of plastic happiness and call it joy. **No, I'm talking about making an active choice to access heaven's realities in the midst of life's difficulties.**

APPLICATION

Biblically, joy is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5), but rejoicing is also a command. It's one thing to know that the Joy of the Lord is available, another thing to express that joy outwardly and practically.

Listen to these NT commands:

- **1Th 5:16 NKJV – Rejoice always...**
- **Phi 4:4 NKJV – (command) Rejoice (explanation) in the Lord (prescription) always. Again I will say, rejoice!**
- **Jam 1:2 NKJV – count it all joy when you fall into various trials,**
- **1Pe 4:13 NKJV – but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings...**

If we have joy as a fruit, it will also be reflected as a choice, but many of us refuse joy!

QUOTE

“There are some Christians that seem to have been reared on Vinegar.”

And I'll add, “And have been baptized in lemon juice!”

Spurgeon

APPLICATION

The church in Macedonia reflected this choice of joy despite their circumstances. Paul writes about them to the Corinthians:

2 Corinthians 8:2 – They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

Or how about the prophet Habakkuk's choice:

Hab 3:17-18 NKJV – Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls– Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Perhaps most importantly, the example of Christ who suffered and endured the grief and pain of the cross, **“For the joy set before Him.” (Hebrews 12)**

BIBLE PASSAGE

Isaiah 53:3 (NKJV - New King James Version)

³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

GREIF

Sadness and grief aren't things to escape. Jesus shows us that you can be deeply grieved and at the same time have a source of Joy that transcends the temporal.

FIRST CHRISTMAS

Without a doubt, the King of Kings coming on the first Christmas brought intense joy to those who partook of this glorious happening.

Within the account of the Christmas story, Mathew and Lukes's gospel records 10 separate moments where divine joy is experienced or expressed.

This morning, we will look at 4 instances where we see joy and rejoicing in the Christmas story and discover several reasons we too can rejoice today.

1 Christmas Teaches us to Rejoice in God's Fulfilled Promises (Zaharias, Elizabeth & John the Baptist - Luke 1:14)

CONTEXT

I think these first events are an intricate part of the first Christmas. The pregnancy of Mary with Jesus coincided with the pregnancy of her relative Elizabeth with the Messiah's forerunner, John. It was here, with John's parents, Zacharias and Elizabeth, the countdown began to the Messiah's arrival. John's birth would be a supernatural moment of prophetic enormity. Isaiah prophesied that John would be:

[Isa 40:3 NKJV] 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.

But for the parents, it was anything but a season of certainty!

- They were both older and past childbearing age.
- Having been childless for so long, there was probably a stigma in the community about the couple.
- Even though a child was always considered a blessing and an answer to prayer, I'm sure at this point, they had put the hopes of a child far out of their thinking. Talk about

a change of plans and redirection of course!

- So one day, this well-loved, highly revered, righteous man was fulfilling his annual duty of ministering in the temple before the Lord. But this day he was anticipating to be “normal,” was anything but.
- I don’t think any of us could blame him for his response when the following happened:

[Luk 1:8-9 NKJV] 8 So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, 9 according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

So far, it seems like nothing supernatural is going on, but notice God’s timing is interwoven into the normal schedule.

- **Approximately 20,000 priests were serving in Jerusalem at this time. In the order of Zacharias' division (the division of Abijah), there were probably 1000 priests. That order of priests would only serve in the temple twice a year. We get the sense that to be the chosen one to burn incense in the Holy of Holies was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity... but today, randomly, it was Zach's day.**

BIBLE PASSAGE

Luke 1:11-13 (NKJV - New King James Version)

¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

¹² And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

BIBLE PASSAGE

Luke 1:18-21 (NKJV - New King James Version)

¹⁸ And Zacharias said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.”

¹⁹ And the angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings.

²⁰ But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.”

²¹ And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple.

APPLICATION

Zacharias hears this unbelievable news but backtalks the angel! He hears the news, and he knows it's divine! It's not every day an angel visibly stands right in front of you, in the temple, and verbally talks to you! **“But how do I know?” Seriously Zach!?**

- Unlike Mary, who when visited by an angel received his message gladly by faith, old Zach has some questions and excuses for his doubt.
- "How will I know? I need more evidence. I can't simply take your word for it!"
- We are old and this is impossible! It's the same faithless laugh that Sarah had within herself when God told Abraham she would have a child.
- Zach would have done well to think about Abraham at that moment and keep his mouth shut!
- The angels looked at him and said, ***“If you want to open your mouth in doubt and faithlessness, then just shut up... and he did, for 9 months!”***
- God's words will be fulfilled in their own time (20)! **Zacharias, it's God's job is to fulfill His promises, your job is to believe Him at His word.**

APPLICATION

This was no ordinary baby. According to Jesus, John would be the greatest prophet and the greatest among men to ever live. And in verse 14, before Zach goes mute, the angel tells him what the boy's birth will bring:

BIBLE PASSAGE**Luke 1:14 (NKJV - New King James Version)**

¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

APPLICATION

Joy and gladness at his birth!

- Not merely the joy of a new child, but the joy that the child represented the drumroll to the Messiah's coming.
- Not just the pleasure of a safe birth and new baby, but the joy of seeing God's Word and promise come to pass just as He said it would.

In the same way, if you are struggling to rejoice because things are challenging in life, an excellent place to start is by recalling all that God has done in your life. Remember the promises that He has been faithful to fulfill to you.

- Rejoice in faith ahead of the fulfillment of His promises, knowing that just as He has been faithful in the past, He will be faithful in the future.
 - We can rejoice in anticipation of His return when he brings to pass every single promise He has made.
 - We can be happy and exceedingly glad regardless of our present circumstances when we root our joy in God's ability and faithfulness to keep all His promises.
-

BIBLE PASSAGE**Luke 1:59-64 (NKJV - New King James Version)**

⁵⁹ So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias.

⁶⁰ His mother answered and said, “No; he shall be called John.”

⁶¹ But they said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name.”

⁶² So they made signs to his father—what he would have him called.

⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, “His name is John.” So they all marveled.

⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God.

APPLICATION

Do you know that for everything the enemy seeks to steal, and sin seeks to destroy, and the world seeks to contaminate, in Christ, you and I possess something that no one and nothing can take from us: every promise of God.

[2Co 1:20 NKJV] 20 For all the promises of God in Him [are] Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

From beginning to end, the Christmas story reveals that God keeps his word and fulfills His promises. That is something we can always rejoice in!

2 Rejoice in God's favor (Mary - Luke 1:28, 46-48)

CONTEXT

One fateful afternoon, while about her everyday business, a young Hebrew girl received the shock of her life.

- Not only did she encounter an angel, but the message the angel sent her was earth-shattering. She would have a son, she would be overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, and that son would be the Messiah of Israel and Savior of the world.

- The angel's opening greeting to Mary is revealing:

BIBLE PASSAGE

Luke 1:28-37 (NKJV - New King James Version)

²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

²⁹ But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.

³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.

³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible."

APPLICATION

She was favored by God! The Lord was with her! She was blessed among all women, and chosen! and what should be her appropriate response? REJOICE!

- The Greek word here is Chara (to be exceeding glad), some translations render the word, “Hail” or “greetings,” but I think the NKJV got it right when the rendered it “rejoice!”
- **If the Roman Catholics only knew that all those times they do their “Hail Marys,” they should be doing, “Rejoice Marys!” The next time your watching that final play of your favorite football game, just yell at the TV, “Go for the rejoice Mary!”**

But rejoicing was the appropriate response for such news! We know that she did rejoice because later she responded to the news by writing a song of praise. In verse 46, she sings:

BIBLE PASSAGE

Luke 1:46-48 (NKJV - New King James Version)

⁴⁶ And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

⁴⁸ For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

APPLICATION

Here’s the incredible truth about all those who are in Christ today.

- Mary was blessed to give birth to the Messiah, but we are more blessed that the Messiah has been birthed in our hearts!
- Mary was blessed because God showed her favor, choosing her to carry the messiah. We are more blessed because we, in Christ, The Father, have shown us favor that we would carry Christ and become His children through Him.
- Mary was blessed because the LORD was with her. We are just as blessed because Jesus said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” The Lord is with us! Forever Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us.

- Mary rejoiced because God regarded her in her lowly state. How much more should we rejoice that Christ came and regarded us in our sin and rebellion?
- Mary rejoiced because God had mightily done great things for her. So we can rejoice that He is mighty to save, and by His powerful hand, He has done great things for us!

As Mary did, may the skies around us this Christmas be filled with songs of rejoicing and gratitude that because of Jesus, God is with us, and God is for us! This was the joy that moved Paul the apostle to write in **Romans 8:35-39**:

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rom 8:35-39 NKJV] 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3

Rejoice in God's salvation (Angels - Luke 2:10-11)

CONTEXT

The most honored guests of the first Christmas night had to have been the shepherds. The night Christ was born, there was great commotion in the heavenly realm. Apparently, the arrival of the Son of God could not go unannounced. God was made flesh, prophecy was fulfilled, the Messiah had come! These were all realities that God wanted to make known to man.

- **[Heb 1:6 NKJV] 6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."**

The audience God chose to convey this message to seems unconventional according to human standards. He sent the glorious hosts of heaven to the humblest place on earth and made His message known! A group of lowly, poor shepherds was privy to what was undoubtedly the best Christmas performance of all time. These statusless men, who would never be welcomed into the presence of an earthly king, were the first to be notified of the Heavenly King's arrival. That night, heaven met earth in more than one way!

BIBLE PASSAGE

Luke 2:10-11 (NKJV - New King James Version)

¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

APPLICATION

The news that the angels couldn't contain was a message of great joy and glad tidings! Not just for the shepherds, or Mary, or Joseph, but ALL people.

- There is such joy in knowing that because of that event 2000 years ago the hope of restoration, redemption, the new creation, forgiveness, and new life is available to all people.
- How is it that we can be so sour in life when the hope of eternal salvation for all people has come to this world.
- **Death defeated, hell overcome, God made a man!**
- **Hail in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate deity! Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel!**

APPLICATION

Christmas can often bring seasonal depression. All of our joys and sorrows seem to be amplified through the holiday seasons. I think this is why the author of one of our favorite Christmas carols penned these words:

God rest you merry gentlemen

Let nothing ye dismay

Remember Christ our Savior

Was born on Christmas Day

To save us from Satan's pow'r

When we were gone astray

O tidings of comfort and joy!

In modern-day vernacular, that would read, "May God keep you in the joy of the gospel truth that God came to earth to save and deliver us!"

APPLICATION

I do find it interesting that on that night, the angels described joy as the antithesis of fear. "Do not be afraid...good tidings of great joy..."

- We live in a day and age when fear can rule our hearts.
- What are the drones in NJ? When are the aliens coming, or the fake aliens!? Is the economy going to collapse? Will a nuclear war start?

It's only the gospel that pierces the fog of fear and, like a bullhorn, resounds, "Don't be afraid. Jesus has overcome! Rejoice in what God has done, what God is doing, and what God will do!"

BIBLE PASSAGE

Joel 2:21 (NKJV - New King James Version)

²¹ Fear not, O land; Be glad and rejoice, For the Lord has done marvelous things!

4 Rejoice in God's revelation (Magi - Matthew 2:10-11)

CONTEXT

We are all familiar with the story of the wise men, the mysterious magi from the east. As beautiful as the song “We Three Kings” is, it’s most likely not accurate. There were three gifts but potentially many more travelers. This could have been an entire caravan of men who were seeking the Jewish Messiah. Whether these were Jewish descendants from the exile in Babylon or eastern mystics from the prophetic school of Daniel or astronomers from nearby Petra, these men’s journey had been ongoing for a long period of time.

- Not merely in travel, but also in study time. Apparently, they had been waiting and studying this celestial event, patiently waiting and wondering.
- Their path was divinely paved. They expected the news of such a King’s birth would have been on the front page of the Jerusalem post, but arrived to a fairly quiet scene. It wasn’t even on the radar of Herod, the Roman puppet leader in Judea.
- There was no public birth in the palaces of Jerusalem, so they were re-routed to the small, poor, nowhere town of Bethlehem.
- But this didn’t move them, for when the star finally led them to the manger in which the Savior lay (probably 1-2 years after Jesus’ birth), they were consumed with joy at the sight of him.
- To the rich and powerful, it would have been easy for them to be insulted at the simplicity and poverty of Jesus and his family. This certainly is not the king they envisioned. But they weren’t offended, rather they were overjoyed and gave lavish, valuable gifts.
 - Gold representing his royalty
 - Frankincense representing his priesthood
 - Mhyrr representing his sacrificial death that would one day come.

BIBLE PASSAGE**Matthew 2:10-11 (NKJV - New King James Version)**

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

APPLICATION

Anyone who has ever spent their life searching for purpose, meaning, and God, and has found Jesus knows how these wise men felt.

- There's a lot about Jesus for humans to be offended by, but for the humble of heart who understand their sinfulness and unworthiness, Jesus is not an offense but a treasure—the one who is worthy of all of our greatest treasures.
- God divinely revealed His son to these men in a way they could understand. **They studied the stars, so God used a star.** They were intrigued by ancient prophecy, so God used prophecy.
- ***They searched and found the Messiah, but you get the sense that God was the one finding these wise men and leading them to the Christ the entire time?***

I wonder if there are people in here today who have been on a life pilgrimage of sorts. You've been following a sense inside that God is somewhere and wants you to know Him in some way, but up to this point, you've just been following the signs and symbols, but you haven't yet met the person. I have good news for you today. The same baby that was born 2000 years ago, who died as a sacrifice for your sins on a Roman cross, and who rose from the dead, is alive and here right now in the person and presence of the Holy Spirit. He wants you to see Him, experience Him, and know Him in a personal way. When you approach the real Jesus by faith, everything changes. Everything you sought joy in before that never lasted will be replaced with the joy of knowing you are made right with God and forgiven of your sin.

Like the wise men of old, you too can bring the gift of your heart and life in worship to God as you bow down and surrender at the feet of this loving and good savior.

BIBLE PASSAGE

Romans 6:23 (ESV)

²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Psa 16:8-11 NKJV] 8 I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. 10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

LOW JOY TANK?

If joy is lacking in your life, as it certainly has in my life at times, there could be several reasons the Bible lays out:

1. Misplaced Trust

- **Jeremiah 17:5-6** says, "**Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the Lord. He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.**"
- Trusting in human beings over God can lead to a lack of spiritual fulfillment and joy.

2. Sin and Disobedience

- **Psalm 32:1-5** shows how unconfessed sin can rob us of joy, but forgiveness restores it. "**Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ... I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.' And you forgave the guilt of my sin.**"
- Sin creates a barrier between us and God, affecting our joy and fellowship with Him.

3. **Worldly Worries and Materialism**

- **Matthew 6:25-34** speaks to the anxiety that comes from worldly concerns. Jesus teaches not to worry about life's necessities but to seek first the kingdom of God. Verse 34 specifically advises, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Worry can choke out the joy that comes from trusting in God's provision.
- **1 Timothy 6:10** warns, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." The pursuit of wealth can lead away from faith and result in sorrow, not joy.

4. **Negative Influence and Bad Company**

- **1 Corinthians 15:33** warns, "Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'" Surrounding ourselves with negative influences can diminish our joy and lead us astray.

5. **Lack of Spiritual Nourishment**

- **John 15:4-11** emphasizes the importance of remaining in Christ. Jesus describes Himself as the vine and His followers as the branches, saying that apart from Him, we can do nothing and certainly cannot have His joy in us. He teaches, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ... I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

CONCLUSION

So my friends, “rejoice in the Lord! And again I say, rejoice!”

- Rejoice in the promises he has and will fulfill!
- Rejoice because, in Christ, God is with you and for you!
- Rejoice because God in His mercy, saw fit to bring salvation to all people.
- And rejoice if you’ve found Christ Jesus, and for some, you might find Jesus this very moment.