

“Joy...and the Lost Ark”

(7th in our series, *Jesus Everywhere*)

2 Samuel 6:5; 1 Chronicles 16:1-36*

Pastor Peter Hiett

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**All scriptures are ESV unless otherwise noted.*

Opening

“All Because of You, I am” by the band – Peter stands up and begins to dance with the song.

Susan:

What are you doing? What do you think you’re doing? Dancing in front of all these people like this? In your underwear and your Bart Simpson t-shirt? What were you thinking? How the pastor of the Sanctuary honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his parishioners and female parishioners, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself! What were you thinking?

Peter:

Well Susan. I’m trying to have free, spontaneous, un-restrained and outrageous joy like David, the “man after God’s own heart.” So why don’t you sit down and listen or you might not ever get pregnant again.

Sermon

2 Samuel 6

¹⁴*And David danced before the Lord with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod.*

¹⁵*So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the horn.*

¹⁶*As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and she despised him in her heart. ¹⁷And they brought in the ark of the Lord and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it. And David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. ¹⁸And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts ¹⁹and distributed among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins to each one. Then all the people departed, each to his house.*

²⁰*And David returned to bless his household. But Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, “How the king of Israel honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants’ female servants, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!” ²¹And David said to Michal, “It was before the Lord, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the Lord – and I will make merry before the Lord. ²²I will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and I will be abased in your eyes. But by the female servants of whom you have spoken, by them I shall be held in honor.” ²³And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.*

Now listen – there are all sorts of righteous women in Scripture that can’t get pregnant. But Michal does not bear fruit because she despises David’s dance.

So here’s a little crisis – here’s a problem. If you thought *“Come on Pete – have some dignity!”* or *“Thanks for the Twinkies, Slim Jims, and raisin cakes, but no thanks for the dance.”* If you

thought that, well you're thinking just like Queen Michal, who bore no fruit to the day of her death.

That's a problem and here's another problem.

I'm not actually feeling free, spontaneous, unrestrained and outrageous joy.

I'm feeling a bit naked and ashamed and very self-conscious.

I'm thinking about your judgments and my judgment of your judgments.

Some of you are thinkin':

"That was embarrassing and awkward" or

"He better not expect me to do that" or

"He did that at Lookout" or

"You weren't dancing before the Lord – you were illustrating your sermon,"

which is actually quite different. So I probably wasn't worshipping, but pretending to worship, like when you're at church and someone says *"Rejoice; worship the Lord; clap your hands and be happy."* So you feel like you're in a skit about worship and therefore can't worship. You pretend and worship to cover the fact you're not worshipping. Kinda like when you try so hard to be joyful it just makes you sad inside.

I couple weeks ago I had lunch with Barry Brown. As I prepared to get out of the car, he asked me a question. He said *"Hey Peter, where do you find joy?"* And I really struggled with the question. A pastor is supposed to have joy and for the past 4 years, I've really struggled with sorrow and the pain I've experienced – all related to preaching.

"Where do you find joy?"

"What is joy?"

Religious people love to define joy and when they do it sounds like they're saying joy is actually...not joy. Real Christian joy is acting joyful when you're not joyful. So joy is your decision, your judgment, your responsibility –

"So be joyful, damn it!"

So what is Joy? I've kept this video for about a year now, not exactly sure why...except I think, this is Joy.

Babies laughing video

Dad makes noise and the 4 babies surrounding mom begin to laugh.

Mom then says *"Do it again."*

The dad makes the noise again and the babies begin to laugh as do mom and dad.

I think that's David's dance.

I think that's Joy.

I'm jealous of those babies.

Are you jealous of those babies??

Do you realize that you have spent your entire life desperately working and striving to not be a baby...? Now I'm not blaming you. I'm just saying, *"Isn't that weird?"* And here's more weirdness:

You can't just decide to be a baby – it won't work out.

You can't just decide to dance David's dance.

You can't just decide to be "born again" or you're not born again.

You're a grown man acting like a baby.
So where's Joy? What is Joy? How do you get it?
Have you ever noticed that sometimes the harder you work to get joy, the less you do??

Ask my wife. When I go on vacation, it's my nature to work so hard at joy; I make myself and everyone else sad. Instead, in the words of C.S. Lewis, I have to be, like, "surprised by joy." I have to be distracted. Sometimes I can be distracted by a roller coaster or a beautiful sunset or a conversation with one of my kids. But if I keep asking "Am I having joy now?" "Is this joy?" "If I keep judging the joy," I crucify all Joy.

It's like joy happens when I stop judging my joy as if Joy was my own possession. Upon reflection I realize that joy happens when I forget myself. And here's the painful reality of life in this world, "The longer I live, the more self I tend to have and the more self I tend to have, the harder it is to lose, and the harder it is to experience joy."

Little kids don't seem to have a problem experiencing free, spontaneous, unrestrained, and outrageous joy. When my kids were little, they'd stand at the toilet for hours pulling the handle and squealing with delight as miraculously the water swirled down the hole, along with Polly Pockets and Matchbox cars. And I used to be like that, but I grew up. I actually worked for a while as a plumber. So I gained the "knowledge of good and evil plumbing" and now the toilet no longer fills me with wonder.

But because a child is small, everything else is big and wonderful. As C. L. Dodgson wrote "*Alice must grow small to enter wonderland.*" The older we get, the less we tend to experience wonder so the less we lose ourselves and the less we dance David's dance. We think we understand toilets, gravity, and hydraulics. I don't think we actually do – but we tell ourselves we do understand gravity, life, light, love, and God. We tell ourselves we do 'cause no one wants to be a baby.

Babies are vulnerable;

Babies are not in control;

Babies are affected – they not only experience outrageous joy; they experience sorrow at the drop of a hat.

So, with our "knowledge of Good and Evil," with our judgments, we protect ourselves from sorrow...and from joy.

Where do you find Joy? Where is Joy?

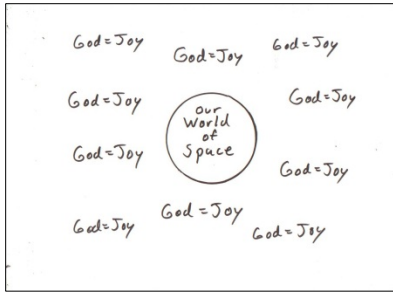
In Psalm 16:11 David, the dancing king, writes "*In your presence there is fullness of joy.*"

So "Where is Joy?" is the same question as "Where is the Lord?" And isn't the Lord, like, everywhere?

"In Him we live and move and have our being." Acts 17:21

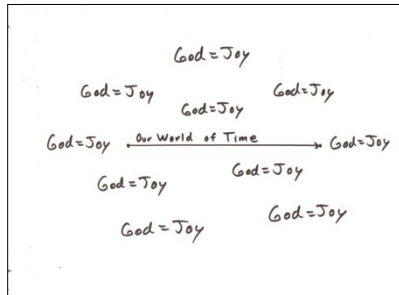
You know before God could create everything out of nothing, He had to first create nothing, 'cause He was everything. In other words, He had to first create space and time. So the Big Bang is more like an explosion of nothingness in the somethingness, than an explosion of the somethingness in the nothingness, which means we perceive everything exactly backwards.

And so our world of space exists in God something like this



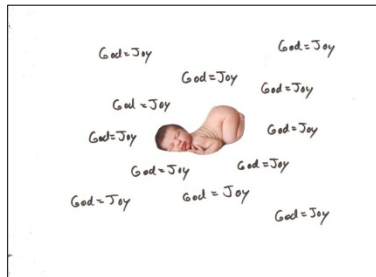
and *"in the presence of God, there is fullness of Joy."* And if God will fill all things, they'll be full of Joy.

And maybe our world of time exists in eternity something like this



and *"in the presence of God is fullness of Joy"* – the beginning and the end are Joy.

And maybe I'm created in space and time like this



a naked, little vulnerable me and all around me is the eternal fullness of Joy.

I am a creation of the will of God with the capacity for choosing what is not the will of God; with the capacity for making my own judgments.

The story of every son of Adam and daughter of Eve is the same – I take "knowledge of Good and Evil" from the Tree of Law and begin to make myself in the image of God. With my judgments I grow one of these



a self that believes *“All because of me – I am.”* I build a life with my judgments, my choices, and my will. I seize control and make myself – the creator of myself. That self that I create is called my flesh – my pride – my sin. It’s built with a lie and this is the lie: I get what I deserve; I make me.

So, *“Where’s Joy?”* Well it’s all around me – the real me – the naked, little creation of God – that’s me. It’s all around me. So, why don’t I experience Joy? I don’t experience Joy because I’m trapped in a prison of flesh built with a lie; a prison of self; a prison of sin; a prison of pride; a prison of trust in my own judgment – which hides from God’s Judgment.

God’s Judgment is Love.

God is Love and

In *“His presence is fullness of Joy.”*

Well, I hope you see we’ve come to believe a lie:

We believe that Joy is this very fragile and rare commodity;

that it has to be diligently pursued and carefully kept as our most treasured possession.

But...

Joy is like the default mode of reality;

Joy is everywhere, unbreakable and eternal;

Joy is the presence of God and He is not your private possession;

You cannot earn Him

He is everywhere and Free.

Well, you see each of us is like a baby trapped in a dark, little bubble of flesh; believing it get what it deserves; floating in a sea of ecstatic, wild eternal Joy –

The Presence of God.

Each of us is terrified that someone might burst our bubble. But beyond the bubble is infinite, unrestrained, absolutely free, eternal Joy.

G. K. Chesterton wrote this

So we sit perhaps in a starry chamber of silence while the laughter of the heavens is too loud for us to hear. Joy, which was the small publicity of the pagan, is the gigantic secret of the Christian.

So, do you get what he’s saying? The world tells us that Joy is this extremely fragile and rare commodity. So, you need to pursue it, capture it, and guard it with your flesh, your works – retirement accounts and insurance policies. You need to guard it with your life.

But Jesus said you must *“lose your life in order to find it.”*

You can’t capture, comprehend, and contain Joy – Joy is the presence of God.

You must surrender to Joy.

So, *“What is it?” “Where is it?”* and *“How do we experience it?”*

Let’s take a look at why David is dancing. 2 Samuel 6 – David remembers the lost Ark.

[Image of the Ark of the Covenant]

Last week we learned all about *“the Ark of the Covenant”*

It is the presence of God, *“in the presence of God is fullness of Joy,”* Glory of God, Power of God, and Judgment of God.

It was a box of wood containing the Law and covered with Mercy, which is Life.
It was tree containing the “Knowledge of Good and Evil” and tree that was covered in
Life – the Blood is Life.
It was guarded by cherubim and a sword held by a High Priest.
It was a throne – a judgment seat – called the Mercy Seat.
It was like the Garden of Eden and like the Cross on which Jesus was sacrificed and like
the throne on which stands the slaughtered lamb before which,
every creature in Heaven and on Earth and
under the Earth and in the sea and all that is within them worships.

In Revelation, chapter 5

It was the Mercy of God covering the Law of God.
It was the Judgment, which stands between us and eternity.

2 Samuel 6

6 David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. ²And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim. ³And they carried the ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart, ⁴with the ark of God, and Ahio went before the ark.

⁵And David and all the house of Israel were making merry before the Lord, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. ⁶And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. ⁷And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah, [Literally translated “the face of Yahweh became hot against Uzzah.”] and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God. ⁸And David was angry [David grew hot.] because they Lord had burst forth against Uzzah.

2 Samuel 6:1-8

Perhaps David thought *“This isn’t fair. Uzzah didn’t deserve death.”* Maybe no one deserves anything, except nothing, which is death.

Do you think you deserve Joy? Or have you started to feel Joy and thought *“I don’t deserve this!”*

Perhaps David thought, *“I would’ve done the same thing to protect the Ark! Doesn’t God know Uzzah was trying to save the Ark. Uzzah was trying to save the “Presence of God” – save Joy and Uzzah was trying to help you out.”*

⁸And David was angry because the Lord had burst forth against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzzah, to this day.

[Perez-uzzah means “Uzzah’s breach.” A breach is a break or gap. So, the boundary between time and eternity, fallen Creation and God was breached. And the face of God, Glory of God, Presence of God – the consuming Fire that is God – just consumed Uzzah.]

⁹And David was afraid of the Lord that day, and he said “How can the ark of the Lord come to me?”

2 Samuel 6:8-9

Listen closely. Before David danced in his underwear; before he experienced free, spontaneous, unrestrained, and outrageous Joy, he had to wrestle with this question. Verse 5, *“How can the ark of the Lord come to me?”* Verse 6, *“Do I deserve the Ark?”*

¹⁰So David was not willing to take the ark of the Lord into the city of David. But David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. ¹¹And the ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-edom, the Gittite three months, and the Lord blessed Obed-edom and all his household. [1 Chronicles 26:8 Obed-edom had 62 sons and grandsons. He was profoundly fertile, unlike Queen Michal who despised David's dance. Well, anyway, Obed-edom was blessed with life.] ¹²And it was told King David, "The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. ¹³And when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. ¹⁴And David danced before the Lord with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁵So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the horn.

2 Samuel 6:10-15

Now I hope there are some things that make you go "hmmmm"; that make you ask

"How could the Ark of the Lord come to David?"

"Why did Uzzah die...and David dance?"

I mean Uzzah seems responsible and David seems irresponsible. Like Michal, Uzzah is respectable and David is quite "shameless" and in his own words "contemptible" and "abased."

Perhaps Uzzah violated some ritual Levitical law, but only on impulse and only for the sake of saving the Ark.

David violated the Moral Law – the *Ten Commandments* in the Ark – adulterer; murderer; liar; coveter – huge sins. Uzzah dies and David is called "the man after God's own heart."

Uzzah dies but we don't know how that felt for Uzzah. Some argue that he'll be tortured forever, without Mercy, which is a strange idea since it was the Mercy seat that killed him.

Mercy destroyed him – but Mercy can re-create him.

God will breathe on the Valley of Dry Bones and the whole House of Israel will rise, according to Ezekiel 37:11-14.

Well, no matter what, I'm sure it must've been terrifying for Uzzah. Yet there are different forms of terror. Remember last week when we watched *Raiders of the Lost Ark*? And the Nazi touches the Ark and screams "*It's beautiful*" as he's destroyed by the consuming fire.

God is Consuming Fire

God is Love

Love is Fire.

2 Thessalonians 1:9 "*Those who don't obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus will suffer the punishment of aionios eternal destruction from (or what comes from) the presence of the Lord.*"

The Glory of Jesus – Eternal Fire – will destroy them.

Remember when Jesus appeared to Paul on the Damascus road? Jesus burned him; blinded him; and even destroyed him. Paul wrote "*it's no longer I who live, but Christ in me.*" "*No longer I,*" "*no longer my flesh,*" "*no longer my religious accomplishments,*" "*no longer my pride, my ego, my judgment...that self I thought I deserved.*"

I had a Damascus road experience, which I've told you about many times. It was the day I told God that I was leaving the ministry because He didn't talk to me and didn't love me. The day He told me that I had gone into the ministry because I hated His Bride, the Church. At the end of

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that day (that Judgment Day in Canada), God literally pinned me to the floor. I thought my arms would snap. I'd always prayed *"If I'm out of your will, just break my arms."* And it felt like a million volts of electricity were coursing through my body. And God pulled back the Veil; He made a breach between Eternity and Time. And I saw that He loved me – everywhere; every when; every how – because that is who He is. Not because I deserved Him. I remember thinking if He turns it up just one more notch, I'll die – I'll die in absolute Ecstasy; I'll die of Joy.

Now I do not know if that's what Uzzah experienced. If he surrendered to God's Judgment – I think maybe he did. But if he resisted God's Judgment, it must have been absolute terror. You see if you believe that you are the product of your own judgments; if you believe that you created yourself with your good judgments, according to your "knowledge of Good and Evil." That is if you try to justify yourself, according to the Law, nothing could ever be as terrifying as the manifestation of Jesus Christ who is the Judgment of God, Word of God, and Revelation of Grace. The Judgment of God will burst your bubble.

The Judgment of God consumes your judgment – like fire consumes chaff and stubble. So if you think you are your judgments; if you think you are the chaff and stubble; the Judgment of God will be absolute terror to you. But if you think you are the Handiwork of God, created by Grace – by Grace through Faith and this Faith, not of yourself. If you think you are a creation of Grace, imprisoned in a body of flesh, then God's Judgment isn't terror, but your greatest joy...

It's Liberation.

It's Freedom.

It's Rest.

It's Eternal Rest in loving Grace of your Abba Father – your daddy.

Well anyway, Uzzah died but maybe David died too. Other than *"I better save the Ark,"* we don't know what Uzzah was thinking, but we do know what David was thinking. We know what he was singing or at least what he was dancing to. (It's recorded in 1 Chronicles.) We don't have time to read all of it now, but we can read how it ends.

As King David is stripped of all his dignity and dances like a little child, before the face of God and Glory of God, enthroned on the Ark; this is the Word, this is the Song to which he dances:

1 Chronicles 16:31-34 ³¹*Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"* ³²*Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!* ³³*Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.* ³⁴*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!*

It's the most repeated verse in all of Scripture – *"His steadfast love endures forever."* That means that God never stopped loving Uzzah or David or Michal for *"His steadfast love endures forever."* David dances as the Ark enters Jerusalem as the choir sings *"Rejoice...sing for joy, before the Lord"* - Why? – *"for he comes to judge the earth. Give thanks. He is good. For his steadfast love endures forever."*

I think the greatest lie of the Prince of Darkness, perpetrated against the church and our entire culture is this: *"That the Judgment of God is the opposite of the Love of God when the Judgment of God is the very revelation of God, who is Love."*

Jesus said, *"Now is the judgment of this world!"*

"Jesus Christ and Him crucified for the sins of the world" is the Judgment of God.

"The Mercy of God, covering the Law of God, is the Judgment of God." The Judgment of God - undeserved, unmerited love -, which means Grace which means all your good works; all your efforts to earn His love by justifying yourself, according to Law in the power of the flesh are faith-less-ness in who He is. They are lies and abominations that will be destroyed by Truth and Light and Love.

And if you don't love that Judgment, you'll hide in outer darkness.

You'll hide from Eternity in the depths of space and time.

You'll hide in lies, subject to the Father of Lies.

You'll hide in darkness under the dominion of the Prince of Darkness.

You'll hide in death in the depths of the Earth.

You'll hide from Life, Light and Truth.

You'll hide from Jesus - the Judgment of God.

You'll become a ghost - even now it starts to happen.

It happens when you dress yourself in the fig leaves, kings' robes and good deeds and flesh; when you despise David's dance like Michal:

Religious, Self-righteous and Barren of Life.

But if you surrender to God's Judgment - you surrender to Love. Now make no mistake, selfish judgments will be destroyed by God's Judgment. In other words you'll be saved from your sin. You'll be stripped of your pride. Then you'll begin to dance - like a child, to the rhythms of love, before the face of the Father, who delights in you - made in the image of God, a man/woman after God's own heart. Jesus said *"You must become like a child to enter the Kingdom."*

It's the Judgment of God that burns away your pride and sets you free to dance.

You know why those four babies experience such unrestrained joy?

They were staring into the face of a father who delighted in them.

They did not yet know "good and evil."

They had not yet begun to judge themselves and create themselves.

They were not self-conscious.

They couldn't earn their father's love - they just received their father's love and that was their father's delight.

When my children were little, every day when I'd come home, as soon as the key hit the lock, I'd hear a scream *"Daddy's home!"* And my kids would run in and just start dancing, screaming *"Daddy's home!"* It didn't matter to me if it was the Salsa, Can-can, or a mosh pit. All that mattered was that they danced to my love. Our entire life is to be a dance like that. It's called worship and it bears fruit. Did you know Joy is fruit (which we'll talk about next week)? But when my children danced, it was free spontaneous joy. No one told them they had to do it and it wasn't a law they were trying to fulfill. And with it, they weren't trying to achieve something else. In other words, they weren't being religious.

Well as those four babies get older, they'll begin to judge each other and judge themselves and become self-conscious and stop laughing. As my kids went off to school and began to be judged

and to judge, they stopped dancing or if they danced, they did it to perform and gain my approval. Not because of my love, but to gain my love. They became religious.

We all become “religious.”

We all try to gain God’s approval.

We try to construct ourselves with our judgments and good deeds but, even that is according to His plan, for He longs to show us His mercy.

He shows us His Mercy at the Cross and when we see His Mercy, we start to dance, like little children, but even better than children.

We don’t simply go back to the Garden to dance beneath the two trees; we go forward to the New Jerusalem to dance beneath the Cross for we have the “Knowledge of Good and Evil,” covered with Mercy, that is Life. We know the Good and delight in the Good – for God is Good. He is Mercy.

The Cross is the Judgment of God; the Revelation of Mercy. It’s the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil; transformed into the Tree of Life. It’s the Law of God, covered with the Mercy of God. So the very place we took His life, He gave His life – that’s Mercy. Jesus Christ and Him crucified for the sins of the world is the Ark of the Eternal Covenant of Grace.

The Presence of God; Power of God; and Judgment of God

So what have we learned?

Uzzah asserted himself, tried to save the Ark, and died.

David abased himself, was saved by the Ark, and danced.

Uzzah tried to control the Ark – he judged the Ark and died.

David was controlled by the Ark – he was judged by the Ark and danced.

Uzzah is the Religious Impulse.

So let me ask – are you Uzzah?

Do you think God needs your help? Such that... He can’t save the world, without you, or save you without you? In which case, you’re kind of the savior of the Savior? Is that why you dance? To assure your salvation – control Salvation. That’s why the Pharisees crucified Jesus. And that’s not Faith, its works and that’s not Life – its death.

Maybe Uzzah needed to die; maybe David needed to see Uzzah die ‘cause David needed to die to himself, in order to dance. Maybe you need to die to a lie – that you must deserve God’s presence; you must deserve joy, which is Grace. No one deserves Grace or it’s not Grace.

Uzzah is the Religious Impulse. David is the Life of Faith in Grace. The man who surrenders his sin and dances in the Light; who sees the Glory of God, shining in the face of Christ; who delights himself in the gracious Judgment of God; who knows God loves him freely, unconditionally and absolutely.

So where do you find Joy? David found Joy in the Judgment of God – the Ark of the Covenant of Grace.

So anyway, like I was saying, Barry asked me “*Peter where do you find joy?*” I fumbled through my answer, but said something like this “*You know I think joy is like, everywhere, just as God is everywhere. The problem is me – when I lose me, I hear the music, begin to dance, and*

experience joy. When I was younger, I could lose me in a ski jump or a song; even flushing the toilet. But now there seems to be more of me to lose. I need something bigger in which to get lost. So, I can't believe I'm saying this: but I find joy in preaching the Gospel and that's weird 'cause preaching is like the most painful thing I do...I mean I usually feel like I'm dying and often encounter painful rejection. Yet, preaching the Gospel, I preach God's Judgment of Grace and preaching – if I'm forced to see it and seeing it – I die and then live and sometimes even dance."

Last year at a time when I was really struggling, God gave a word to my wife for me. It ended like this: "Yes, you will get tired and be tempted to sleep but in the end, your only rest is in me, Abba." Abba means Daddy and its true, my heart only rests in His gaze.

So where do I find Joy? or Where does Joy find me?

It's the last place Satan wants you to look the last place most folks would look.

It's the Judgment of God.

But in the words of David

"Let the Earth rejoice. Let Peter Hiatt rejoice. The trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord for He comes to judge the Earth...

His steadfast love endures forever."

Communion

So on that night that He was betrayed, He took the bread and He broke it saying "Look this is my Body torn; my Body give to you. Take, eat and do this in remembrance of me." And in the same way, after supper, and having given thanks, He took the cup and he said "This cup is the blood of the Covenant, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Drink of it, all of you, and do it in remembrance of me."

And so do you see what He's saying, every week Sanctuary, every week my people, every week Church – come to church and look. Behold My Judgment. This is My Judgment. You cannot make Me love you any more than this. You cannot make Me love you any less than this. Why, because it's done. It's finished. My Word has gone out and will not return; this is My Judgment. You are worth (He's talking to you, so I want you to hear your name); this is His Judgment. You are worth My Body torn on this tree. You are worth My Blood, which flow like a river from My Throne; that is My Judgment. It cannot be changed; it is eternal; it's the Fire that will consume you in love. "I love you" – His Judgment. So, I think He's saying this "Come to My table and receive My Judgment; eat My Judgment; digest My Judgment and maybe, even sometimes, it will make you feel like you just want to dance. I like it when you dance."

So in Jesus' name, come to the table; receive the Judgment of Yahweh. Believe. Worship.

Benediction

So Lord God, we worship You for who You are. You are Love and Your love is free. You are Grace, poured out upon this broken creation and in Your Presence is fullness of Joy. So, you are a good Daddy, aren't you? Amen.

So, you see, I think there are a lot of ways of saying this but I really think the reason we're on this messed up, screwed up planet, is to learn to find joy in the Judgment of our Father. And you know joy does feel pretty elusive in this world, but this is the amazing thing – I think

Heaven is joy in the Judgment of our Father because Heaven is a place where everyone loves the Judgment of the Father and so every judgment comes in harmony with His Judgment, like a great dance. And everyone dances to the same tune, which is the tune of Love, which is the tune of Grace and so no one there wants to sin. Sin is like picking up gravel and rubbing it in your eye. Nobody wants that because they know that joy is in the Judgment of the Lord. And so, you see, once you learn to find joy in the Judgment of God, you begin to find it everywhere; for God is everywhere and Heaven is a place where we see that and everyone dances.

So, in Jesus' name, believe the Gospel. Amen

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