



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Joy: Walking in Real Joy
Speaker: Matt Manno, Student Ministry Pastor
Scripture: Acts 16:22-34

The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

Acts 16: 22-34

Sermon Outline:

- I. Joy can come to us when we least expect it.
- II. Paul and Silas come to town to preach the Gospel and end up beaten and in prison.
- III. There are no shortage of circumstances in life to steal away our joy.
- IV. Many of us count on joy based on our circumstances of the day, but joy from the Holy Spirit goes far beyond a momentary feeling.
- V. It's an attitude God's people adopt that His promises will be fulfilled, no matter the circumstance. It is unchanging. This makes it possible for us to be rooted in joy despite our circumstances.
- VI. Paul and Silas, despite their circumstance, are singing and praying.
- VII. Their joy had nothing to do about their situation, but was about Jesus.
- VIII. Joy didn't mean they were happy to be beaten or happy to be in jail, but happy to know Jesus was with them.
- IX. No matter how dark it gets, the promises of God are always available to us.
- X. We don't lack a source of joy, we lack a perspective that informs us of it.
 - Must draw near to God, its a fruit of the spirit not a fruit of "my effort"--GET IN THE WORD.
 - Tap into the Holy Spirit, it will lead to transformation and sends us on mission--GET INTO PRAYER AND GIVE YOURSELF TO WORSHIP.
 - Get in community, we are not meant to walk alone.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday Speaker Matt Manno, Student Ministry Pastor, offers the fourth sermon in our Fruit of the Spirit series, focused on joy.

Sermon Questions:

- I. What words or phrases from this scripture passage resonated in you as you read them? Why?
 - In your family of origin, what would bring the family joy? What would bring you joy? Would you say most of your memories are filled with joy or another feeling?
 - What is something that brought you joy this week?
 - What is in your heart and what are you expecting when you are in a bad season or a crisis in life? Have you ever had a time in life when you were met with joy when it wasn't expected?
 - What are things in your day-to-day life that steal your joy?
 - How can holding joy from the Holy Spirit, a joy based in God's promise to you, help shape your attitude and feelings through difficult circumstances?
 - When you face a dark or difficult moment this week, try and focus on God's promise for you. Both sadness and joy can co-exist, that no matter the situation, because we know Jesus there will always be an opportunity to be rooted in joy in times of pain and sorrow. He has not forgotten about you or left you, he is not in a far off place but walking with you.