

The 72

Discipleship for Kingdom Leaders and Believers

Lesson: The Spiritual War for Your Joy and Happiness

January 18th, 2022

1 Holidays and Other Celebratory Events

2 While joy and happiness are partners, they are not the same thing.

- Definitions:
 - **Happiness** increases when the things around my life improve.

 - **Joy** increases when the meaning in my life deepens.
 - Joy = Meaning, Purpose, Mission, Relationship
- While joy and happiness are tied together, they are not synonymous, nor are they always present at the same time.

3 There is a spiritual war against your happiness.

- The enemy can't touch your joy; but he can influence your joy by interfering with your happiness.
- If the enemy steals your happiness, then he can get you to doubt your joy.
 - This is the heart of Jesus' message in **John 10:10**.

 - Also in **Luke 4**, Jesus is tempted by the Devil with everything that makes a human happy.

 - The enemy knows if he can steal your happiness he can steal your joy.
- **Matthew 12:43–45 (ESV) — 43** "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. **44** Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. **45** Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation."

- Demons have no right to be in your life, so they can be cast out.
 - BUT, demons, after being cast-out, are going to come back and check on you, and when they find there is no joy (meaning, purpose, mission, relationship) in your life, they can then wreak havoc along with their friends.
 - When Jesus says, "So also will it be with this evil generation," I believe He's talking about a people who have no joy.
- 4 **The Solution: we see the true meaning of joy in Jesus' Call to surrender and obedience.**
- **Hebrews 12:1–2 (ESV) — 1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - Surrender and obedience are the foundation stones to joy (meaning, purpose, mission, and relationship).
 - You don't get joy without sacrifice.
- 5 **Walking in joy will defeat every scheme of the evil one.**
- Let the Word of God come alive for you.
 - Make the most of your limited time.
 - Make endurance training a regular pursuit.
 - Sit at the foot of the cross.
 - Pursue your happiness while accepting the endurance required for your joy.