

MY JOY DRIED UP...SO, NOW WHAT?

JOHN 2 – ERIC SIMPSON – SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

Purpose of signs/miracles:

- Draw attention to something that might be missed
- Open our eyes to the greatness of Jesus
- Deepen our roots of faith/trust/confidence in Him

Kairos = God-appointed time vs. *Chronos* = our time (minutes, hours, days)

Simchah (sim-cha) = Hebrew word for joy

Psalm 104:14-15

¹⁴ The Lord makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate—bringing forth food from the earth: ¹⁵ wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart.

Jesus is our living wine (joy), our living oil (countenance), our living bread (sustenance).

"For me, and for many of us, our first waking thought of the day is 'I didn't get enough sleep.' The next one is 'I don't have enough time.' Whether true or not, that thought of *not enough* occurs to us automatically before we even think to question or examine it...we're not thin enough, we're not smart enough, we're not pretty enough or fit enough or educated or successful enough, or rich enough—ever. Before we even sit up in bed, before our feet touch the floor, we're already inadequate, already behind, already losing, already lacking something. And by the time we go to bed at night, our minds race with a litany of what we didn't get, or didn't get done, that day. We go to sleep burdened by those thoughts and wake up to the reverie of lack...What begins as a simple expression of the hurried life, or even the challenged life, grows into the great justification for an unfulfilled life."

– Lynne Twist

The "order of joy" – joy is the culmination of a sequence of events inside of us

➤ **Seeing** – reminded that Jesus is with us, always, no matter the circumstances.

John 16:22

...Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

➤ **Settling** – you take a deep breath and you settle into His presence

Pathway to joy is found in not fixating on joy but fixating on Jesus.

"...cultivate the inward habit of gazing upon God." – A.W. Tozer

➤ **Receiving**—it's a gift we receive, not a virtue we achieve

John 15:11

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

"We have the notion of joy that arises from good spirits or good health, but the miracle of the joy of God has nothing to do with a man's life or his circumstances or the condition he is in. Jesus Christ does not come to a man and say '*Cheer up.*' He plants within a man the miracle of the joy of God's own nature." – Oswald Chambers