

Joy Comes In The Morning Psalm 21:1; 30:5

Introduction: If you have your Bible with you this morning, please turn to Psalm 21 with me – Psalm 21. The gathering of Christians together to worship God should always be filled with joy, but that is especially true on this day when we turn our attention to our Lord’s empty tomb. Every Sunday is a gathering to rejoice in our resurrected Lord. His victory over sin and death and hell through His bodily resurrection brings joy to our hearts which no other truth can do. And so, in the last song that the choir sang we were exhorted as God’s people to come together and rejoice. This joy that is found in our resurrected Savior is a joy which should find expression in the people of God rejoicing together. So, that is what we have sought to do today. And for the next few minutes, I want to add fuel to the bonfire of our joy in Jesus by looking to the joy that He himself had on the morning of His resurrection.

This resurrection of Jesus brings us great joy, but consider for a few minutes the joy that it brought to our Lord. This great joy of Jesus at his own resurrection is not seen in any one text of Scripture. So, the Gospel writers do not tell us about the emotional response of Jesus at the moment he set his resurrected foot outside the dark tomb and into the early morning light. But there is a hint of this joy in the Psalms and then there is a clear text of explanation in the book of Hebrews. When we put those two together we discover that Jesus’ joy at his resurrection was a surpassing joy and it was a satisfied joy.

- I. **It’s a Surpassing Joy – Ps. 21:1; 30:5**
 - a. In Psalm 21:1 we learn this first truth about our Lord’s joy – that it was a surpassing joy. Psalm 21 is the praise report of the king of Israel after the prayer meeting of Psalm 20. So, in Psalm 20 you have the people of Israel gathered as the king leads them to pray for victory in battle. They declare their complete trust in the Lord and they plead with God to rescue them from their enemies. Now in 21:1 we read this – “O Lord, in your strength the king rejoices, and in your salvation how greatly he exults!” – or you could also say, how great is his joy. The king had gone into battle against fearsome enemy with full dependence upon the Lord, and had returned victorious. So now he returns praise to the God of Heaven for the great victory he gave. The pain of battle, the agony of war, the threat of defeat, the staring of death in the face, the fear of losing – all of these are surpassed now by the great joy the king has in the victory the Lord has given him.
 - b. This text points to our Lord Jesus Christ. As the ultimate King of Kings, he entered into human flesh to wage the ultimate battle against His enemy. As God in the flesh he brought the battle to its climax. Satan sought his defeat through temptation and deceit and ultimately death. But Jesus’ righteousness withstood

every test and as the sinless Son of God He took the fight to the enemy by laying down His life in death on the Cross. What appeared to be defeat was actually the pathway to ultimate and final and complete victory. The sorrows known by Christ in the battle were dark and deep. It was on the Cross that he bore our sins in his body. It was there that the full weight of the condemnation of our sin was placed upon him. It was there that he was pierced of our iniquity and suffered the judgment for our sin. It was there that he who knew no sin became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. In fact, the suffering of the Cross was so intense in its prospect that Jesus sweat drops of blood just hours before being nailed to that Cross as he prayerfully anticipated this most awful of experiences. The eternity of sin's condemnation was placed upon Christ in those hours upon the Cross. There are not words to adequately describe the greatness of His suffering.

- c. But as this verse teaches us – the sorrow and agony of battle are far surpassed by the great victory and salvation He won. And He won that victory at the moment of his resurrection. The full defeat of sin and death and eternal hell was won by him and for us the moment Jesus stepped out of the grave – resurrected and forever alive. And at that moment the sorrows of the battle were far surpassed by the joys of eternal victory!
- d. We know glimpses of this surpassing joy in our experience too. A mother goes through the agony of pregnancy and especially of childbirth, but the moment she clutches that newborn child in her arms, joy rushes over her like water breaking through the Hoover Dam. Her joy far surpasses the agonies of the battle to birth the child. Or maybe you have known the experience of being in great amounts of debt and fighting and battling to claw your way out from under that financial weight. And the day you pay that last bill the joy of victory far surpasses the pain of the battle to get to the top of that mountain.
- e. There is another text in the Psalms which points us to this surpassing joy, and that is found in Psalm 30 and verse 5. David had faced the severe discipline of the Lord and now he is writing a song to rejoice in the great mercy of God which brings surpassing joy. So he says this in verse 5 . . .
- f. This may well be one of the most best known lines of the entire Psalms – weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. This is an expression of the surpassing joy found in God alone. Did you notice the contrasts in the verse? Anger is contrasted with favor, and for a moment is contrasted with for a lifetime. Weeping is contrasted with joy and the night is contrasted with the morning. It creates a powerful picture of the temporary nature of sorrow and of the eternal nature of true joy found in a merciful God.
- g. But we could easily read this and take it to mean something like “every cloud has a silver lining” or “you’ve got to take the bad with the good” or “don’t worry, things will get better someday” – as though this verse is just a verse to prop up our outlook for any given day. But the whole of the verse makes clear that something else is going on. David has known the anger of the Lord against his sin, but because David was God’s child he was shown mercy by God. God’s wrath did

not burn forever toward David because God is full of steadfast love and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in grace. And the posture of God toward those who are His children is one of favor and kindness. So, like a father he may discipline us for a season of life, but that will quickly give way to the joy of the morning dawn. This will be so true for the child of God that David can rightly say that God's favor is for a lifetime, while his anger is but for a moment. Weeping may be for the night of our discipline, but joy will come in the morning!

- h. But think of this verse in light of the work of Christ Jesus our Lord. This is a foreshadowing of Christ's cross work on our behalf. Jesus laid down his life on the cross to bear God's righteous wrath in our place. He was condemned so that we might be forgiven and cleansed. This is how 1 Peter 3:18 says it:
 - i. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, (1 Pet. 3:18 ESV)
 - ii. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. (Heb. 9:26b ESV)
 - iii. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (Rom. 5:6 ESV)
 - iv. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. (Isa. 53:5 ESV)
- i. The Scriptures are clear – Jesus was condemned for sinners. He died in their place, under the weight of their just judgment. But think of how this ended. Death did not have the last word. One of Jesus' final words on the Cross in the agony of his darkest hours was to cry out "tetelestai" – It is finished! He did not mean that his life was finished, but that his substitutionary work was finished. The debt was paid, the wrath of God satisfied, and now he could commit his spirit into His Father's hand. And the great exclamation point of God to show that he approved of Jesus' sacrifice was the resurrection on Sunday morning. In this glorious miracle of resurrecting and glorifying the body of Jesus Christ, the Triune Godhead was saying the work is done, the sorrow lasted for the night, but the morning has come. And with it, far surpassing joy!
- j. So, Christian, no matter what you are facing today, whether by the discipline of your Heavenly Father, or by the mere struggle of living in a sin-cursed devil-dominated kind of world – that sorrow will only last for a while. The joy of the resurrected Christ will soon be yours forever and ever. The sorrow of a sin-cursed body that is daily decaying and slowly passing away, will one day give way to a resurrected and glorified body with which you will enjoy the presence of God forever. That shadow of the glory of God that you now know, and that you are daily growing in as you gaze upon the image of Christ – that shadow will one day fall away into the glorious reality of God dwelling with man and man with God. As Jesus said about the good steward in Matthew 25 – well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Master! There is eternal joy which awaits those who are in Christ, and all the sorrow of this life will have been but a

night in comparison to the eternal day of far surpassing joy! And this is yours because Jesus rose from the grave after paying for your sins upon the Cross!

- k. But I cannot just preach the blessings of the Gospel, I must also preach its warnings. So, if you are not in Christ by grace through faith, then you will not know the temporary anger of the Lord, but the eternal wrath of a righteous God. That is what we all deserve. That is what our rebellion against God deserves. And if we die in our unbelief and rebellion against God we will be forever under the condemnation of our sin in the eternal lake of fire where the Bible says there will be constant weeping and gnashing of teeth. Friend, not everyone will know the joy of the Lord in Heaven. They will only know that joy if the Lord is their Savior and Master. They cannot enter into His joy if they do not know Him. So, the message of this text to your heart today unbeliever is – it is not too late. You can know this eternal and far surpassing joy in Christ by looking to Him in faith to save you from your sins and to make you a new creation in Him! As He was resurrected from physical death to physical life, so you can be called from spiritual death to spiritual life by Him. May today be the day of your salvation!
- l. As Jesus said in John 3:36 – “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

II. It's a Satisfied Joy – Hebrews 12:2

- a. So, this joy of our resurrected Lord was a surpassing joy. Let me also show you that it's also a satisfied joy. Hebrews 12:2 makes this point to us that this surpassing joy is also a satisfied joy. I'll start reading in verse 1 to get the context and then draw this conclusion out of verse 2. *Read 12:1-2*
- b. The author of Hebrews is calling us to run the race of faith throughout life. This means taking God at His Word, depending completely upon Him, and not failing to believe in God even when what we see contradicts what He has promised will happen. He uses the racing metaphor to make the point, and he tells us to run that race by looking to Jesus who ran the perfect race of faith in His life. He never stumbled or quit or faltered in the least. In fact, verse 2 says he is the author and the finisher of our faith. In other words, he is the origin or source, and He is the completer. Faith is in Him and faith is from Him and faith is perfectly modeled by Him. He was never without faith in His earthly life. He believed the promises of His Father even when his immediate circumstances appeared to contradict the promise.
- c. And the faith of Jesus is most clearly seen in his life as he approached the cross. Ephesians 1 tells us that before the foundation of the world the Godhead agreed that the Son would enter into humanity to redeem us from our sin. So, before God spoke one word of creation the plan was set. And the tip of the spear of that plan was the crucifixion of our Lord. And this death by execution at the hands of the Romans was full of the greatest pain and shame and agony one could ever imagine. F.F. Bruce in his commentary on this verse says this about the Cross:
 - i. “To die by crucifixion was to plumb the lowest depths of disgrace; it was a punishment reserved for those who were deemed of all men most unfit to live, a punishment for sub-men. From so degrading a death Roman

citizens were exempt by ancient statute; the dignity of the Roman name would be besmirched by being brought into association with anything so vile as the cross. For slaves, and criminals of low degree, it was regarded as a suitable means of execution, and a grim deterrent to others.”¹

- d. And that is not to speak of the greatest sorrow of the cross of Christ, which was the weight of our sin’s condemnation which lay upon His soul. The cup of the wrath of God was drunk by Christ down to its very last drop. Beloved, there are not enough tears in the human race to shed the ocean of sorrow that this scene requires. How can this be? How can Jesus suffer and die in such a horrific way?
- e. Do you want to know what motivated him to endure this unimaginable suffering? Do you want to know what it was that allowed him to despise the shame of the cross? Joy!!!! For the joy set before him he endured the cross and despised the shame. Let that truth sit upon your chest like an 800 pound gorilla for minute. What kind of joy must this be that it compelled Jesus to endure the horrors of the Cross and despise its shame? It is a joy that is a forever kind of joy and it is a joy that is a satisfied joy. In other words, he endured through the cross and despised the shame because that was the night to be endured, but the morning was coming. And when the dawn broke on that third day Jesus stepped out of that tomb into eternal joy! This is what I mean by satisfied joy. It is a joy that is full and complete because His work of redemption is complete. But not just his work of redemption. Consider all these things that are attributed to his resurrection in the Scriptures.
 - i. Fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, proving that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel.
 1. ¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. (Ps. 16:10 ESV)
 - ii. Fulfillment of Jesus’ own prophetic words about himself, proving that He was who he claimed to be:
 1. ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise." (Mk. 9:31 ESV)
 - iii. Confirmation of Jesus’ Deity:
 1. ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, (Rom. 1:4 ESV)
 - iv. Completion of his obedience to His Heavenly Father:
 1. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." (Jn. 10:17-18 ESV)

¹ F.F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Hebrews*, NICNT, pg. 352-3.

- v. Provides for our justified standing before God:
 - 1. ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and **raised for our justification.** (Rom. 4:25 ESV)
- vi. Provides for the regeneration of God's elect:
 - 1. According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope **through the resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead, (1 Pet. 1:3 ESV)
- vii. Assurance that we will not die in our sin and be eternally condemned:
 - 1. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ²⁰ **But in fact Christ has been raised** from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Cor. 15:17-18, 20 ESV)
- viii. Guaranteeing we will never be condemned:
 - 1. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died-- more than that, **who was raised--** who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. (Rom. 8:34 ESV)
- ix. Put Jesus in the position of authority over all things, and as head of the Church:
 - 1. ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when **he raised him from the dead** and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, (Eph. 1:19-22 ESV)
- x. Made our spiritual resurrection possible, so that we are seated with Christ:
 - 1. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- ⁶ **and raised us up with him and seated us with him** in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Eph. 2:4-7 ESV)
- xi. He hides our eternal life in Him so that we will share his glory in the eternal day to come:
 - 1. If then **you have been raised with Christ**, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Col. 3:1-4 ESV)

- xii. Guarantees the future resurrection of all who believe in Him:
 1. ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, **yet shall he live**, (Jn. 11:25 ESV)
 - xiii. Makes clear that Jesus is both the Lord and Christ, the Messiah:
 1. ³² This **Jesus God raised up**, and of that we all are witnesses. (Acts 2:32 ESV)
 2. ³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." (Acts 2:36 ESV)
 - xiv. Guarantees that Jesus will return as the Judge of all mankind:
 1. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by **raising him from the dead**." (Acts 17:30-31 ESV)
 - xv. Seals His exaltation and His eternal glory:
 1. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, **who raised him from the dead and gave him glory**, so that your faith and hope are in God. (1 Pet. 1:20-21 ESV)
- f. That is the satisfied joy of Jesus upon his resurrection. All of those eternally glorious things were accomplished or provided for as he left the tomb resurrected from the dead! If you are in Christ by grace through faith then you share in this joy today. Like Peter in 1 Peter 1:8 you agree – "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory!"

Conclusion: So, today is a day of surpassing joy and satisfied joy as we look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith who rose from the dead. Friend, do you know this joy in the resurrected Jesus? The reality is, we all have a gospel that we look to for our ultimate joy. Your gospel is the thing that you are dependent upon to give you lasting joy and gladness in this life and in the next. Lots of people have lived in pursuit of all kinds of gospels to give them joy. And at the end of their journey in this life, they are the most miserable of people. They have not found true joy.

- So maybe your gospel is unbelief, making yourself your own god and the captain of your fate. The famous atheist philosopher Voltaire pursued that gospel and at the end of his life he wrote – "I wish I had never been born." No joy.
- Or maybe your gospel is pleasure – seeking pleasure in this life as the way to eternal pleasure. Lord Byron lived a life of unabated pleasure only to finish life empty as he wrote – "The worm, the canker, and grief are mine alone."
- Or maybe your gospel is money – getting all you can and spending all you wish as you seek lasting joy from it. Jay Gould died as a millionaire and said, "I suppose I am the most miserable man on earth."

- Or perhaps your gospel is fame and prestige – Lord Beaconsfield had all that and at the end of his life he wrote – “youth is a mistake; manhood a struggle; old age a regret.”
- Or perhaps you think military glory and conquest of others is the ticket to lasting joy, but consider that Alexander the Great who conquered the then-known world wept in his tent at the end of his life and said “There are no more worlds to conquer.”

Friend, there is only one Gospel that can give you lasting, eternal, surpassing, and satisfied joy. And that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Will you one day enter into the joy of Your Master?