



Today's Message

Date: November 22, 2020
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***Joy and Blessing in Knowing Jesus***

Text: Luke 10:17–24 (ESV)

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” ¹⁸ And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

²¹ In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²² All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

²³ Then turning to the disciples he said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”

Introduction: The theme of joy saturates this passage. Seventy-two disciples who gave up all (9:23-27 and 9:57-62) were sent out as mendicants on a preaching tour. In this sermon text, they return to give a report. Their service was apparently successful. What they

witnessed brought them great joy. Jesus responded to their report with an exuberant display of even greater joy—a unique moment in the records of the life of Jesus.

I. Report: With joy, the disciples describe a successful mission. 17-20

- A. Serving Jesus brings great joy . . . 17
- B. because such work has eternal consequence. 18-19
- C. But secure salvation brings even greater joy. 20

II. Response: With greater joy, Jesus explains the work of God on which the mission rests. 21-22

- A. Jesus rejoiced greatly over the Father’s sovereign election. 21
- B. Jesus rejoiced greatly that the Father works exclusively through him. 22

III. Explanation: Knowing and serving Jesus is the greatest blessing of all. 23-24

- A. The disciples were privileged to witness the fulfillment of God’s promises. 23
- B. Past generations of God’s people could only imagine such blessing. 34

Today’s take-home truth: Those who follow Jesus on his terms find in him the great blessing that brings true joy.