
Entering into the Joy of the Lord (The Abundant Life of Holiness)

The Joys of Holiness

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Sermon: The Joys of Holiness: Entering into the Joy of the Lord (The Abundant Life of Holiness)

Lesson Text

Matthew 25:14–21 (AV)¹⁴ For *the kingdom of heaven is* as a man travelling into a far country, *who* called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. ¹⁵ And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. ¹⁶ Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made *them* other five talents. ¹⁷ And likewise he that *had received* two, he also gained other two. ¹⁸ But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. ²⁰ And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. ²¹ His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:24–30 (AV)²⁴ Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: ²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, *there* thou hast *that is* thine. ²⁶ His lord answered and said unto him, *Thou* wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: ²⁷ Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and *then* at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. ²⁸ Take therefore the talent from him, and give *it* unto him which hath ten talents. ²⁹ For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. ³⁰ And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Introduction

A year ago today we introduced a series on the Holy Spirit, and spent the entire year studying:

- Growing in the Holy Spirit (Grow up or Swell Up, The Purpose and Roles of the Spirit)
- The Fullness of the Holy Spirit (8 Steps to being filled with the Holy Ghost)
- The Fruit of the Holy Spirit (Where's the Fruit, Love, Longsuffering, Gentleness)
- The Foundation Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher)
- The Sign and Works Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Faith, Discernment, Healing, and Tongues)

We live in a world that is hyper-sexualized and hyper-criminalized. Our music and culture embrace an immoral sexual lifestyle of fornication, adultery, and homosexuality; our people live a morally bankrupt lifestyle of lying, betrayal, money and wickedness where anything goes.

This cultural lifestyle has infected our families, our communities, our workplaces, our politics, and unfortunately even our churches.

We spent a year learning about the Holy Spirit God gave us; but what does he require of us?

1 Peter 1:15–16 (AV)¹⁵ But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Leviticus 20:⁷ Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I *am* the LORD your God.

Hebrews 12:¹⁴ Follow peace with all *men* and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord

For the first part of 2020, we want to answer a couple of questions: **“What is holiness?”** and **“What does it truly means to be holy?”**

Now I know that many of us have our perceptions of what holiness means; but despite popular beliefs, Holiness is not about a life of dos and don'ts, or cans and cannots.

The enemy has literally twisted our perception that holiness and living saved is about giving up our fun or restricting our enjoyment of life.

In reality, Holiness is about a new lifestyle; one that frees us from the bondage of sin and death; and releases us into the Abundant Life that Jesus came to give us!

- Romans 6: ²³ For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Galatians 5: ¹ Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.
- John 10: ¹⁰ **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

Most people live their lives in continuous misery; in an endless pursuit of seeking happiness. But the abundantly life that Christ came to give us was a life of consistent and persistent Joy that can only be achieved through Holiness that the Holy Spirit is here to lead us into!

Series and Sermon: The Joys of Holiness: Entering into the Joy of the Lord (The Abundant Life of Holiness) - “Entering into the Holiness of Your Call, Your Walk, and Your Joy”

I. Entering into The Holiness of Your Call

Matthew 25: ¹⁵ **And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.**

One of the first keys to Holiness living is accepting the life that you've been called to.

What we see in our lesson text is that each man is given talents based on his individual ability.

Why are so many people frustrated with their lives? Not happy being single, not happy being married, not happy with their job, career, money, family, and even ministry!

Why? Because they are too busy looking at the lives of others. They were content with their pay until they find out their co-worker was making more. They were content with their house, until they saw someone else's house. They praised God for their ministry until they saw yours!

When we compare our lives to others, jealousy and envy sets in, and we fail to embrace the holiness of the life God called us to! (“Play the hand you got, not the one you want”)

Matt 25: ¹⁸ **But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord’s money.**

Whether it’s the jealousy and envy of what someone else has, or the frustration of what we don’t have; if we are not careful, we will dig a hole and bury our calling.

James 3:16 (AV)¹⁶ For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work.

The truth is, even if the man with the ability for one talent had been given ten, he would not have been able to handle the additional nine anyway; he would have just made a mess!

People can be jealous of what you have, but even if they had it, they couldn’t handle it because they don’t have the anointing for it.

When we enlisted into the service of Christ, we were given a set of gifts based on our call. We must never limit ourselves based on what we do or do not have. If our calling needed it, God would have given it to us. And when our calling needs it, God will give it to us!

Philippians 4: ¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

We can’t fail at our calling because when we embrace holiness, God gives us all we need!

Philippians 1:6 (AV)⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

II. Entering into The Holiness of Your Walk

Matthew 25: ¹⁶ **Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made *them* other five talents. ¹⁷ And likewise he that *had received* two, he also gained other two. ¹⁸ But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord’s money.**

The next key we want to explore in holiness living is how we walk into our calling.

Matthew 22:14 (AV)¹⁴ **For many are called, but few *are* chosen.**

The reason why so few are chosen is because of what they do and how they behave after their calling. Most walk in the flesh and remain carnal, but some walk in the Spirit and become holy.

Galatians 5:16–17 (AV)¹⁶ *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

When we fail to walk in the Holy Spirit, our flesh will walk towards the lusts of the world.

1 John 2:16 (AV)¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

James 1: ¹⁴ But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed ¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

1 Corinthians 3: ¹ And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ... ³ For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

And so instead of working our talents, we bury them in the ground and destroy our calling!

John 10: ¹⁰ **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

But when we embrace holiness and walk in our calling, God gives us double for our trouble!

Hebrews 12:¹⁴ Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord

Matthew 25: ¹⁶ **Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made *them* other five talents.**

“Double Portion of Blessings, Double Portion of Anointing, Double Portion of Increase, ...”

III. Enter into The Holiness of Your Joy

Matthew 25: ²¹ **His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.**

The Holiness of our Call ensures we won't fail because God gives us what we need for it. The Holiness of our Walk ensures we won't bury it but get double for our trouble.

Finally, the Holiness of our Joy rewards us with Joy.

Too many Christians are miserable because they are seeking happiness rather than entering into the Joy of the Lord.

Happiness is only something that happens to happen occasionally, but most of the time it is illusive. At best as soon as you think you've found it, it evaporates! At worst, you never find it.

Happy when you get a job, unhappy when you're denied the promotion. Happy when you meet a friend, unhappy when they betray you. Happy when you get married, unhappy when you don't live happily ever after. Happy when you start a ministry, unhappy when you lose support.

Joy doesn't come from a job, promotion, a friend, spouse, money, or ministry. It comes from the Lord when we embrace Holiness. The world didn't give it, and the world can't take it away.

The Joy of Holiness brings us Strength: Nehemiah 8: ¹⁰ ...for *this* day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength. **(Enter into it)**

The Joy of Holiness brings us Favor: Psalm 30: ⁵ For his anger *endureth* but a moment; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning. **(Enter into it)**

The Joy of Holiness brings us Blessings: Proverbs 10: ²² The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it. **(Enter into it)**

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Entering into the Joy of the Lord (The Abundant Life of Holiness))

Lesson Text

- Matthew 25:14–21, Matthew 25:24–30

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *Entering into The Holiness of Your Call*

II. *Entering into The Holiness of Your Walk*

III. *Entering into The Holiness of Your Joy*

Questions

I. **Getting to Know “Me”**

1. Describe one good thing that happened to you in 2019
2. You are going to sail around the world. What will you name your boat?

II. **Into the Bible**

1. The Bible states we are holy (1 Cor 3:17) and righteous (2 Cor 5:21). What is the difference between holiness and righteousness?
2. There are blessings and privileges listed in 1 Peter 2:9-10 which distinguish Christians from the world. What are they and what are the benefits of each one?

III. **Life Application**

1. Knowing that Jesus came that we may have and enjoy life, in abundance, to the full, till it overflows, explain how you will receive this abundant life in 2020 [and beyond].
2. How will understanding the difference between true righteousness and true holiness help you to live a more fulfilled life? How will you express this life to others?