

Title: Joyful Grace
Pastor: Fred May
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Time: 10:30



a: The risk factor
Unconditional commitment, love and service

Romans 5:2, 8 NKJV

² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

b: Stand in, rejoice in

Maintaining the right perspective of life

Philippians 4:4 NIV

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Aspiring to “know Christ and the power of His resurrection” – at any cost! (Philippians 3:10).

c: Celebration – the triumph of grace

1. Jesus: friend of sinners – crooked politicians, dishonest business people, immoral women...

Luke 15:1 NIV

¹ Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering round to hear him.

Luke 7:34 NIV

³⁴ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners"’

2. Quick to celebrate

Luke 15:22 NIV

²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.’

- slow to correct, rebuke, judge, give ‘constructive criticism’
- quick to restore: i.e. believe, trust, receive
- slow to condemn, punish or exclude

3. God’s joy

Luke 10:1, 17, 21

¹ The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns and places He planned to visit.

¹⁷ When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to Him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use Your name!"

²¹ At that same time Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, and He said, "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank You for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. Yes, Father, it pleased You to do it this way."

Zephaniah 3:17

¹⁷ For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With His love, He will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.

d: The heavens – responsive to celebration

Jude 24 AMP

²⁴ Now to Him Who is able to keep you without stumbling or slipping or falling, and to present [you] unblemished (blameless and faultless) before the presence of His glory in triumphant joy and exultation [with unspeakable, ecstatic delight]

Luke 15:7, 10

⁷ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

¹⁰ Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

- **Friendship**

Luke 15:1, 6, 9

¹ Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him.

⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'

⁹ And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!'

- **Restoration**

Luke 15:8-10

⁸ Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?

⁹ And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!' ¹⁰ Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

- **Revelation**

Luke 15:17

¹⁷ But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!'

e: Religion & law excludes itself

Anger rejects celebration

Luke 15:28-29

²⁸ But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends.'

Blindness to grace produces suffering & pain

Luke 15:31

³¹ And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.'

Nehemiah 8:10 NLT

¹⁰ And Nehemiah continued, "Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!"