

September 2, 2018

Speaker: Tim McCardel

New Message Series: Finding... Joy

Today's Message: The Search

Psalm 46:4 "... There is a river that brings joy to the city of God..."

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed (happy, to be envied and spiritually prosperous—with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of their outward conditions) are the poor in spirit..."

* **Beautiful Truth:** "Joy is the serious _____ of heaven." ~C.S. Lewis

John 10:10 "I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full."

John 15:11 "I have told you these things so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

1. Searching... In The _____ Places

* "I think everyone should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it's _____ the answer." ~Jim Carrey

Isaiah 55:1, 2 "Are you getting what you want out of life? Why do you spend money for that which is not bread and your labor for that which does not satisfy?"

The O.T. Prophet Isaiah: didn't leave them with no answer—rather he told people to _____ searching for joy where it is really found—in a right relationship with God.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 "He has planted eternity in the human heart..."

Two Kinds of Happiness:

- 1) When circumstances are pleasant and we are relatively free from troubles—but down inside we know it's only _____ and shallow at best.
- 2) A lasting, inner joy and peace which endures no matter what comes and that can grow even _____ in heartache and adversity.

2. The Beatitudes: God's _____ To Our Search

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed (happy, to be envied and spiritually prosperous—with life-joy and satisfaction...) ..."

Jesus' Message: "You can know peace" ... "You can know God" ... "You can know the _____ about yourself and still be joyful."

How Is This Possible? Jesus Christ in spite of all the controversy, abuse, and injustice knew true joy and have His followers the power to live out His teachings.

John 4:14 "But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

John 17:3 "Now this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You

have sent.”

John 17:13 *“I am coming to You now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may be filled with My joy.”*