

John 17:13-17 Joy in Truth- Sermon Discipleship Tool

[Listen to John 17:13-17 sermon here](#) before time with your small group/ those you disciple.

“To enjoy & follow Jesus in a way that others will learn to enjoy & follow Jesus, too.”

The C.A.L.L. method will be the outline for our discipleship model:

Celebrate: Begin by celebrating where has Jesus been working in your life. How Jesus has answered prayer? What are areas where Jesus has blessed you and through you blessed others?

Accountability: Where are you responding to God's grace by walking in God's ways, practicing obedience to God's word as a response to Jesus' love for you? Is there anything specific you are trying to align with God's design for your life and loves as an obedience step from last week?

Learn it: (Summary of sermon below)

¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

- 1- What does this passage teach us about the purpose of Jesus's words and teaching?
- 2- What does this part of the prayer reveal about the opposition to Jesus' teaching, especially in the purpose of having joy grow from the lives of disciples?
- 3- What does this passage teach us about our need, the need of humanity?
- 4- Where do we look for these needs to be met outside of God and His word? This is to ask, what measures do we take to find joy in experiences or other places, and how is that working for us?
- 5- How does the larger teaching of Jesus on Joy by John reinforce the premise- enduring joy is rooted in God and His word- His truth?
- 6- How does this passage teach us more about God's sovereignty and His purpose to make disciples more like Jesus?

(see below for exposition and Biblical explanation)

Live It: What is application for your life and leadership? What are obedience steps?

- 1- What idols of your heart and life do you need to identify, places you are looking for joy outside Jesus?
- 2- What does it look like for you to repent, removing the idols and replacing them with Jesus, His word, and dependency on His Spirit?
- 3- Where do you need to refocus, integrating the reading, memorization, and meditation on God's truth as you ask Holy Spirit to guide you in truth?
- 4- How can you (specifically) make these steps a reality in your life and leadership?

Summary of Sermon

The human quest for joy is real: Trying to excavate vacation data to scientifically increase joy ([WSJ article this week on maximizing vacation peak](#)) OR journey's like Elizabeth Gilbert's in "Eat, Pray, Love" to India, Italy, and Indonesia. No external journey or experience will give true, enduring, sustainable joy. We must respond to Jesus' gracious invitation to cultivate joy from the inside by the Spirit with the truth of God's word. We saw three things:

The Purpose: Full Joy (13)

The purpose of Jesus's prayer is explicitly stated- That His joy may fill His disciples, and the vehicle of this full joy is God's faithful word. This truth is taught

-In John's gospel: See **John 15:1-11**, especially verse 11!

-In John's writings: See **1 John 1:4** and **3 John 4**,

-In Scripture: See **Galatians 5:22-23**) and **Philippians 4:4**)

So we can experience the fruit of joy

In our lives

In repentance and confession: "Restore unto me the joy of my salvation!" (**Psalm 51:10**)

In struggle and sorrow we "count it all joy when we face trials of various kinds" (**James 1:2-3**)

In famine and frustration we say "yet-I will rejoice in the Lord" (**Habakkuk 3:17-18**) The gospel is the ONLY thing that can give joy- real joy- in rough life.

Joni Erickson Tada illustrates how the word of God gives the joy of God in [Facing Trials with Joy!](#)

The Process: Word revealed (14, 16-17) The word revealed cultivates joy from the inside, so in a fallen and fractured world Christians dwell

-With distinction: There is delineation between the world & Jesus' disciples- **John 15:18**

-With opposition: The enemy- **John 10:10**- comes to steal seeds of God's word & joy.

Jesus promises in the Spirit no one and nothing can steal our joy- **John 16:22**

-For sanctification: Jesus prays we will be "sanctified" in the truth- His word is truth.

Westminster Shorter Catechism question 35- Sanctification is the work of God's free grace whereby we are renewed in the whole person after the image of God, enabled more and more to die to sin and live unto righteousness!

The Petition: Keep them from the evil one (15)

The joy of the Lord strengthens His people in the face of opposition and evil **Nehemiah 8:10**.

The joy of Jesus is ultimately priestly protection that keeps us from the evil one **Hebrews 12:1-2**

Jesus defeated the enemy so His people can be sure of our security in His steadfast, covenant love. Jesus fulfills His joy by the Spirit, uniting believers to Him so we can know the Father's love! So believers are free to find joy in truth, the truth of God's word and work.