

## SIGNS OF FAITHFULNESS:

Loves God

June 24, 2018

Nehemiah 8: 9-12

9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, *'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.'* For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, *'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'* <sup>11</sup>So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, *'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.'* <sup>12</sup>And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

As people of faith, what can we look for as the signs of faithfulness?

Signs of faithfulness include:

- Loves God
- Rejoices in God
- Gives Thanks
- Prays Constantly
- Loves Others

These next few weeks, let us take a look at how we as people of faith can live faithfully.

*Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'*

*'<sup>12</sup>And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.'*

Do we understand that the Lord wants us to live into Joy rather than grief?

In our library, the Bible ... there are many references to the ways we can speak of Joy ... many of them are in our vocabulary.

### Psalm 118:

<sup>24</sup> *This is the day that the Lord has made;*

*let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

We know these words / they are in our bones!

### Matthew 5:

<sup>11</sup> *'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'*

Jesus wants us to look beyond the circumstances that we find ourselves in on any given moment. Especially when our faith puts us in a place of conviction causing others to speak evil toward us... Hear the words again: (REPEAT the Matthew 5)

### 1 Corinthians 13:

<sup>4</sup> *Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

WHAT! Love rejoices in truth ... It is so much more fun and interesting to rejoice when there is wrong doing ... keeping a record of wrongs is so much more natural ...

### Philippians 4:

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

REJOICE always ...!?!?

The signs of faith filled people is a sense of Joy ... RE- JOY even ...

DON'T be too quick to say that we are to rejoice in words but not spirit.

SHALLOW Platitudes give birth to the shallow insincere greetings of Rejoicing in times of trouble!

HOW MANY DO YOU KNOW AND TWIST? (this is a list of greeting card ideas ☺)

- “When Life Gives You Lemons...” (Feel free to throw them at people who annoy you. Seems like you’ve earned it)
- “This too, shall pass...” (But just to be sure, slow way down, pull over to the side of the road, and wave it around)
- “Don’t FREAK OUT... (I’ve got that covered)
- “DANCE like no one is watching...” (But remember someone probably is. So don’t do that one move. It’s not as cool as you think.)
- “When one door closes...” (When one door closes, try not to run into it while texting. It hurts more than you think it will. And it’s just plain embarrassing.)
- “Is your glass HALF EMPTY or half full?” (I’m guessing neither since it’s on its side in a sink full of unwashed dishes. We both know how you are.)
- “It is what it is...” (Unless it’s something like this. Then it just sucks.)
- “We are never given MORE THAN we can handle...” (Particularly when it comes to sleep, money, and vacation days. I don’t get that.)
- “You are STRONGER than you think...” (Unless you’re trying to move heavy furniture by yourself. Then you’re kind of out of luck.)
- “Mama said THERE’D BE DAYS LIKE THESE...” (She didn’t tell me they’d happen one after another after another.)
- “There’s a LIGHT at the END of the Tunnel...” (Given recent events, is there any chance it’s an on-coming train?)
- “What doesn’t kill us MAKES US STRONGER...” (Seems like you should be able to lift a car with one hand right about now. But don’t try this at home.)

Authentic Rejoicing ... are real ... That’s different from the SHALLOW Platitudes that we rely on!

I am guilty ...

- “It’s gonna be okay.” (but we may have to redefine what Okay means several times along the way.)

Authentic Rejoicing is the soul that shows signs of confidence in the moments:

<sup>12</sup>And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,

<sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

### **The Sweet Meaning Behind The Beatles’ “Hey Jude”**

“Hey Jude,” one of the Beatles’ most famous songs, is an uplifting ballad that’s inspired the masses for decades. The song, written by Paul McCartney and also credited to John Lennon for some contributions, has been long-used as a generally encouraging message, and it was specifically inspired as an empathetic message to Lennon’s son during a tough time for him.

McCartney originally wrote a rough version of the song, called "Hey Jules," to cheer up Lennon's then five-year old son, Julian, during his parents' divorce, and it eventually became "Hey Jude."

"I was going out in my car, just vaguely singing this song," McCartney told Rolling Stone, "and it was like, 'Hey, Jules...'. And then I just thought a better name was Jude. A bit more country and western for me." He said the song's intro was "a hopeful message for Julian: 'Come on, man, your parents got divorced. I know you're not happy, but you'll be OK.'"

McCartney wrote "Hey Jude" at a tumultuous time in his own life as well. The song was written while the band was doing studio sessions for the White Album, according to Rolling Stone, when the band members were notoriously feuding. At the same time, he and his then girlfriend, actress Jane Asher, were splitting up.

## Hey Jude

The Beatles

Hey Jude, don't make it bad  
Take a sad song and make it better  
Remember to let her into your heart  
Then you can start to make it better  
Hey Jude, don't be afraid  
You were made to go out and get her  
The minute you let her under your skin  
Then you begin to make it better  
And anytime you feel the pain, hey Jude, refrain  
Don't carry the world upon your shoulders  
For well you know that it's a fool who plays it cool  
By making his world a little colder  
Nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah  
Hey Jude, don't let me down  
You have found her, now go and get her  
Remember to let her into your heart  
Then you can start to make it better  
So let it out and let it in, hey Jude, begin  
You're waiting for someone to perform with  
And don't you know that it's just you, hey Jude, you'll do  
The movement you need is on your shoulder  
Nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah yeah  
Hey Jude, don't make it bad  
Take a sad song and make it better  
Remember to let her under your skin  
Then you'll begin to make it  
Better better better better better better, oh  
Nah nah nah nah nah nah, nah nah nah, hey Jude  
Nah nah nah nah nah nah, nah nah nah, hey Jude  
Nah nah nah nah nah nah, nah nah nah, hey Jude

Faithful people show the signs of Rejoicing that is AUTHENTIC: It is visible and Tangible!

***<sup>12</sup>And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.***

*This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

*<sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,*

*<sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.*

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.*

We just heard it!  
The Word of the Lord! Amen.

### **Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

***Text:*** *Walter Chalmers Smith*

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.