

UNTIL I RETURN

Based On the Book by Jeff Walling

Lesson 6 - Words of Warning; Do What You're Told

Intro: If you keep/obey my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:10-11 ESV

Why does our society/culture have such issues/struggles with the word "obey" today?

How does a "lack of obedience" affect us as a society?

In the above text, Jesus uses three words to "connect" His thoughts on achieving joy. The words are obey, love, and joy. How are these words connected when it comes to finding joy on this earth?

1. The Nature of Joy

- What did the angel tell the shepherds Luke 2:10-11?
- What did Jesus say about joy in John 17:13?
- Jesus came to _____ (John 10:10).
- In Matt.25:21, we are invited to share in our master's _____.
- (Luke 6:22-23) When are we to rejoice and leap for joy?
- In Jesus, our sorrow can turn to _____ (John 16:20).

* When we look at Jesus' ministry, on many occasions when he left a place, he left J_____ in His place. Consider his first miracle; he brought joy to that wedding. When he left the widow of Nain, he gave a son back to a mother. He urged his disciples to let the children come to Him; children gravitate to joy. When He healed many of their diseases, they were overcome with joy. When he expelled demons, there was joy. Why do you think some Christians struggle with showing joy in their lives?

2. Satan's Alternative to Joy: Sin

A biblical term that we translate into the word sin is *hamartia*. It is an archery term that means "missing the mark". Sin is an "off target" attempt at reaching happiness. Can you see this in the following?

Divorce, affairs, substance abuse, alcohol abuse, over-pursuing careers, and the love of money all point to a frustrated attempt at joy. Why is that?

What sin needs in order to make disobedience seem good:

- D _____ NESS; a place to hide.
- F _____ NESS; a way to distract.
- N _____ SE; to conceal the discord.
- P _____ ION; to hide the hurt.

* Sin does not rest until it has covered every _____ of your life. Sin is not the path to F _____; it is the path to S _____! (Romans 6:12-13, 16)

3. The Power of Obedience

- What happens when we obey? (Jo.15:10)
- Jesus was willing to be the Son in whom the Father was _____ (Mk.1:11) and he was also the son that L _____ ED O _____!
- What did the Hebrew writer say about Jesus in Heb. 12:2?

** Spiritual joy is the result of a relationship that is based on a voluntary submission to holy demands. As we bow to God's loving orders, he graciously crowns our lives with joy. Jeff Walling*

Next Zoom: Words of Encouragement; You've Got A Friend