

December 12, 2021

Speaker: Pastor Tim McCardel

Christmas Series: ReDiscover Christmas: Good News In Troubling Times

Today's Message: Finding Joy In Our Discouragements

Advent Week 3 Readings:

Luke 2:118

1 Peter 1:8, 9

Last Week: Finding Peace in Our Struggles

- "Peace isn't a place. Peace is a Person. So in the Pace of the season, make SPACE for Immanuel—to find PEACE in the soul."

Finding Joy In Our Discouragements

1. Elizabeth and Mary: Mother's Joy

Note: Joy isn't separate from pain and discouragement—But rather—much of joy is born out of long discouragement and grief.

Luke 1:5-7

1) Elizabeth's Incredible Birth

Luke 1:11-13

Luke 1:18-20

Problem: Zechariah has trouble believing and so he won't be able to speak until his son is born.

Luke 1:25

Luke 1:24

Odd: Elizabeth hides herself for 5 months: A lifetime of hopes, grief, loss...??

Question: How are you handling your heartache's and discouragements?

2) Mary's Impossible Birth

Luke 1:26-28

Matthew 1:20, 21

Luke 1:29, 30

Notice: "Don't be afraid!" "Peace be with you." "Favored one." "The Lord is with you."

Judges 6:12 (To Gideon) "The Lord is with you."

The Point: God is calling Mary and Joseph to an overwhelming experience—but He Himself is with them and He will empower them fully thru it all!

Luke 1:34-39

2. Joy Erupts

Luke 1:41-45

Luke 1:46-55

Application: Our Experience With Joy

1) It's OK to be Joyful... and Happy

2) Joy is our strength

Nehemiah 8:10

1 Peter 1:8, 9

3) We can choose joy

Psalm 13:1, 5

Action Step: This week I will daily, constantly return to The Source of joy: A SAVIOR—My Savior Lives and will carry me through!!