

TRUE GROUNDS FOR REJOICING

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

March 27, 2022

Luke 10:1-24

1. We are currently in the midst of what is referred to as, “March Madness.”
2. March Madness is a single elimination, college basketball tournament that begins with 68 teams, and ends with a championship game that is played by the two teams that win every one of the games they play.
3. If you have not noticed many Americans have a love affair with various sports, and the level of excitement and emotion that these sports generate is amazing.
4. For the record I enjoy various sports, but focus primarily on golf and tennis since they are two sports I can still play.
5. That said, I try to keep a proper perspective on the various sporting interests I have since, in the end, who wins or loses at any sport will not matter, in spite of the fact that various sports broadcasters often use the term, “historic win,” or, “a win for the ages.”
6. I think that those of us who are genuine followers of the Lord Jesus Christ ought to ask ourselves the question, “To what degree am I excited about, and rejoicing in, the things that have eternal implications and significance?”
7. As genuine Christians we have grounds for rejoicing that the world knows nothing about.
8. Our lives should be characterized by rejoicing not only because we have much to rejoice about, but because it is commanded in Scripture. Philippians 4:4
“Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I will say, rejoice!”
9. About sixty years ago Martyn Lloyd Jones wrote something that is still true today.
“The greatest need of the hour is a revived and joyful Church...Unhappy Christians are, to say the least, a poor recommendation of the Christian life.”
10. This passage suggests five grounds, or reasons, for us as followers to Christ to rejoice.

I. The privilege of prayer. 2

A. Jesus said we are to beseech the Lord of the Harvest.

B. In the book of Esther a crisis occurred when Haman convinced King Ahasuerus to allow him to issue an edict condemning all of the Jews in the Persian Empire to death.

1. Esther was a Jew, but she was also the queen, and her uncle Mordecai sent a message to her imploring and ordering her to go to the king to implore his favor and to plead with him for her people. 4:8
2. Ahasuerus was an absolute monarch, and no one could come into his presence unless they were summoned on penalty of death.
3. This law even applied to Queen Esther who had not been summoned by the king for thirty days.
4. However after much prayer and preparation Esther entered the inner court where the king would be able to see her.
5. In Esther 5:1-3 we read the following, “Now it came about on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace in front of the king's rooms, and the king was sitting on his royal throne in the throne room, opposite the entrance to the palace. 2 When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king extended to Esther the golden scepter which was in his hand. So Esther came near and touched the top of the scepter. 3 Then the king said to

her, "What is troubling you, Queen Esther? And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be given to you."

6. The king's gesture of extending to Esther the golden scepter, waived the penalty of death, and gave her the right and the privilege to approach the king on his throne on this one occasion.

C. Being granted an audience by a person of position and power is a great thing, but how much greater a privilege it is to possess an open invitation to the Throne of Grace by Almighty God.

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 **Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.** Hebrews 4:14-16

D. What a privilege and responsibility it is to share in the work of God through prayer.

E. Do you rejoice in the fact that Jesus has opened the way for us to confidently approach God in prayer?

F. Are you praying with thanksgiving? Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

II. A purpose for living. 1, 3

A. Verse one tells us that Jesus appointed seventy of His followers, and sent them out in pairs, to go ahead of Him to prepare people for His arrival.

B. After telling them to pray Jesus said,

1. "Go." God has a way He wants us to go.

NOTE: Are we willing to be God's answer to our prayers?

2. "Behold, I send you out..." We have a divine mandate.

C. "...as lambs in the midst of wolves."

1. Where the Shepherd leads the lambs can safely follow. Psalm 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

2. We can count on His promised presence. Matthew 28:16-20

But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 **Go** therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; **and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**"

III. The promise of provision. 4

A. Vance Havner preached a great sermon based on God's promise to Elijah when God told him to, "1 Kings 17:3-6

"Go away from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. 4 "It shall be that you will drink of the brook, and I have commanded

the ravens to provide for you there." 5 So he went and did according to the word of the Lord, for he went and lived by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he would drink from the brook.

1. There (wherever God wants you) is the place of God's purpose.
 2. The place of God's purpose is the place of God's provision, protection, and power.
- B. God provides for His own when they, "...seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness."
Matthew 6:33

IV. Power for service.

- A. The seventy were told to speak with authority. 16
- b. They were given power to preach and to perform miracles. 17, 19

V. A privileged position.

- A. Our names are recorded in heaven. 20
 1. Here is a great reason for rejoicing, and one that will sustain us during times of trial and temptation.
 2. It also assures us that we have no reason to fear God's final judgment. Revelation 20:15
And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- B. We have divine insight.
 1. Jesus rejoiced greatly and we should too. 21-22
NOTE: The language used in verse 21 means, "thrilled with joy."
 2. Jesus stated, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see." 23-24
 3. We see and hear things the Old Testament prophets longed to see and hear.
As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things into which angels long to look. 1 Peter 1:10-12

APPLICATION

1. We have many reasons to rejoice in the Lord, but we need to understand that with privilege comes responsibility.
 - a. Having been given access to the Throne of Grace we should avail ourselves of this wonderful opportunity.
 - b. Having been sent we need to go.
 - c. Having become the recipients of God's promises we need to appropriate and rely on them.
 - d. Having been granted authority and power we need to exercise both.
 - e. Having had our names recorded in Heaven we should live like the children of God ought to live.
2. If our names are recorded in Heaven we have every reason to rejoice and be excited about life now and life forever.