

Good God - Fullness of Joy

August 13-14, 2016

Community:

1. As the summer winds down and you prepare for fall, what would you say has been the "joyful" part of the summer of 2016?
2. Has anything happened over the summer that robbed you of joy?

Core:

1. Scott Nickell began his message talking about the "law of diminishing returns"—when what you *give* exceeds what you *get* in return. Where have you experienced this the most in life? Are you deep in the middle of experiencing this now? If so, explain.
2. **Read Psalm 16:11.** At first pass, what do these words say to you? How does God make known to you the *path of life*?
3. Scott quoted C.S. Lewis who said, "*Human history is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.*" Where do you try and happiness, other than in God?
4. **Read Psalm 16:9.** The old saying goes, "*When you read the word 'therefore' in the Bible you need to ask 'What is it there for?'*" What does the writer (King David) refer to in the previous few verses—that make his *heart glad* and his *whole being rejoice*? What makes your heart glad and makes you rejoice?
5. There is an obvious difference between *joy* and *happiness*, but how would you explain the difference? Where (if ever) have you experienced God's *presence* and the *fullness of joy*?
6. **Read Psalm 139:7-12.** As King David writes here, we can never run away from God's presence. If this is true, what causes the distance and disconnectedness we can all experience from God? How does this rob us of joy?
7. **Read John 4:3-18.** Scott explained that the well was a metaphor for what this Samaritan woman was living out in life; returning again-and-again to a broken life that would never satisfy. What is your "well" in life?

Challenge:

Scott gave the challenge to take your Bible, a pen, and a journal and find a quiet spot somewhere (hopefully outside) and read through Psalm 16 three times. Then, we're supposed to write: God you are good to me...and list where he's been good or write down why we have a hard time believing this right now. Pray and ask God to open you heart and eyes to both.