



*Why Is Our Joy  
So Important To The Lord?*

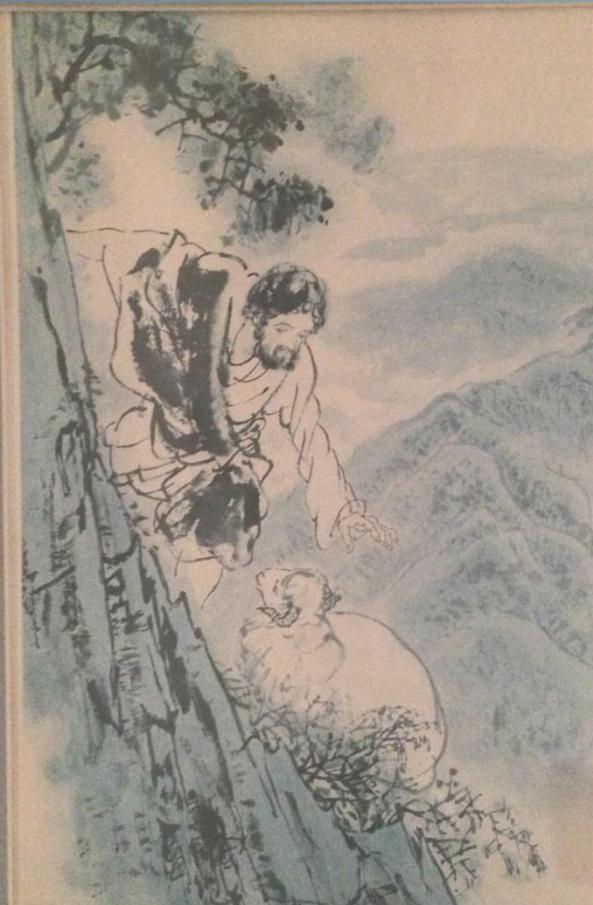


*Be joyful at your Feast--you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levites, the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns. For seven days celebrate the Feast to the LORD your God...*

*Deuteronomy 16:13-17*



*Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor."*



And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.. Luke 15:5-7



But while he was still a long way off...

*[Signature]* 13

*But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” So they began to celebrate.*



*What I love about David is that, through the Psalms especially, we see he was able to find joy in the Lord when he was in a pit of loss, anguish, and depression. David was also able to find joy in the Lord when victories and miraculous answers to prayer abounded. David's joy overflowed out of his heart for the Lord. Circumstances didn't dictate his joy or his faith in God.*



*A joy-giver is confident in the Lord, content, likes being around positive people, seeks to be obedient to the Lord, enjoys celebrations, and rests in the Lord's plan for her life.*

*A joy-taker exhibits self-pity, focuses on comparison, is a complainer, is a negative influence, is overcommitted, and is even constantly exhausted.*



*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

*(James 1:2-4)*

# For the Joy Set Before Him

*Let us fix our eyes on  
Jesus, the author and  
perfector of our faith, who  
for the joy set before him  
endured the cross,  
scorning its shame, and  
sat down at the right  
hand of the throne of God.*

*(Heb 12:2)*



*JOY in good times, because of  
circumstances*

*JOY in hard times, despite circumstances*

*JOY at all times because of HOPE in the  
coming Christ*