



For the Sake of Joy
...people passed through the land, but

ICE-BREAKERS

- Q. 1** Looking back on your life, when has remembering someone else's faith given you the courage to keep going?
- Q. 2** If your life were part of the "cloud of witnesses," what one story of God's work in you would you want others to remember?
- Q. 3** What are some "weights" or distractions that can slow us down in our faith race today?
- Q. 4** When you think about "the joy set before Jesus," what do you imagine that joy looked like?
- Q. 5** In your own words, what does it mean to "fix your eyes on Jesus" in everyday life?

SERMON-BASED

- Q. 1** How have you experienced the "paradox of joy" in your own life - finding deeper joy through a season of hardship, pruning, or sacrifice?
- Q. 2** When you look back at God's "proven record of deliverance and faithfulness," which stories from Scripture - or from your own journey - anchor your joy today?
- Q. 3** What does it mean for you personally to "bear fruit" in both seasons of plenty and seasons of want, and how does abiding in Christ make that possible?

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HEBREWS

11:29-12:2

Sermon-Based Cont.

- Q. 4** What “hindrances” or “weights” might God be asking you to lay aside so you can run your race with perseverance for the sake of joy?
- Q. 5** How can we, as a community of faith, better reflect God’s vineyard - producing Justice and righteousness - in a culture that often measures success by comfort and prosperity?

BEYOND THE TEXT

- Q. 1** Hebrews 12:2 tells us that Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before him. How does this perspective change the way we think about our own trials, sacrifices, and seasons of pruning?
- Q. 2** The rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16: 19-31) remind us that joy is tied to living in alignment with God’s justice and compassion. How can we guard against measuring God’s blessing only in terms of comfort or prosperity, and instead anchor our joy in His faithfulness and mission?
- Q. 3** If Jesus could endure the cross for the joy set before Him, trusting the Father’s plan, how might we reframe our own seasons of ‘pruning’ or ‘refining fire’ - not as detours from God’s goodness, but as essential parts of His process to make us fruitful and read for the kingdom?

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