



Christmas @ Calvary

Joy to the World (Part 1.0)

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SERIES TEXT: "I bring you Good News of great JOY that will be *for all the people*. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ The Lord." (Luke 2:10-11 NIV)

BIG IDEA: Jesus wants nothing more than to personally fill your heart with His overflowing joy.

"I have told you these things so that you will be filled with My JOY. Yes, *your JOY will overflow!*"
- Jesus, John 15:11 NLT

10 WAYS GENEROSITY OVERFLOWS JESUS' JOY TO THE WORLD

Remember this – a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants GENEROUSLY will get a GENEROUS crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to GIVE. And don't GIVE reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who GIVES CHEERFULLY." And God will GENEROUSLY provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to SHARE WITH OTHERS.

As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE POOR. Their GOOD DEEDS will be remembered forever." For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of GENEROSITY in *you*. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always BE GENEROUS. And when we take your GIFTS to those who need them, they will thank God.

So two good things will result from this ministry of GIVING – the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will JOYFULLY express their thanks to God. As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your GENEROSITY to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of THE OVERFLOWING GRACE GOD HAS GIVEN YOU. THANK GOD FOR THIS GIFT too wonderful for words!

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 NLT

I. GIVING IS 100 PERCENT THE BEST INVESTMENT YOU CAN MAKE

- Remember this – a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants GENEROUSLY will get a GENEROUS crop. (v. 6)
- *The Joy of Jesus 101:* What you give to Jesus He multiplies – Your time, gifts, ambitions & money.

II. GIVING SHOULD BE FUN

- "God loves a person who GIVES CHEERFULLY." (v. 7)
- The Greek word for cheerful is *hilaros*.
- *The Joy of Jesus 101:* Jesus loves it when our giving is hilarious and fun. So, "Let giving flow from your heart... Let it spring up from the joy of giving – all because God loves HILARIOUS GENEROSITY!" (v. 7 TPT)

III. GIVING TAKES AWAY THE BURDEN OF FINANCIAL WORRY

- God will GENEROUSLY provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to SHARE WITH OTHERS. (v. 8)
- *The Joy of Jesus 101:* Giving doesn't mean handing over your financial responsibility to God – It does mean handing over your worries.
- "Ryan: Raise your standard of giving rather than your standard of living." - Jesus

IV. GIVING ENRICHES YOU

- Yes, *you will be enriched* in every way so that you can always BE GENEROUS. And when we take your GIFTS to those who need them, they will thank God. (v. 11)
- *The Joy of Jesus 101*: Materially, you will have enough to give generously. Praise The Lord!

V. GIVING TRANSFORMS YOUR CHARACTER

- *The Joy of Jesus 101*: Giving purges your character from the constricting grip of materialism that pollutes.
- ...He will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of GENEROSITY in you (v. 10b).
- May the God of hope fill you with all JOY and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may OVERFLOW with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 NIV

SALVATION PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, I repent of my sin. Please be my Savior and Lord. In Jesus' Name, Amen.