

# Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

August 25, 2021

John 15: 11 and 12

**11** These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. **12** This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

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Pastor Tom read verses 11 through 17.

## Verse 11

*These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

\*Jesus talks about joy in this verse.

Pastor Tom asked what is joy and discussion followed contrasting joy and happiness:

JOY	HAPPINESS
Consistent relationship with Jesus	Not consistent
Fills you up, you can't contain it	Emotion that does not last
Eternal	Temporal
Can be had even in desperate times	Dependent on circumstances

Next Pastor Tom asked what gets us through 'unhappy times'. Answers included faith, good friends, fellowship. Observation made that suicides have increased since covid because people do not have fellowship as before, and faith may not have been strong or even existed. And all the negativity in the media affects people. People who do not know how to depend on Jesus only have themselves to depend on and that does not

work! We need rock solid faith for hard times ahead. Pastor Tom suggested we read ahead for next week in John 15:18 and on.

## **Verse 12**

*This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*

\*The love we experience from God is agape love, unconditional and pure.

Pastor Tom asked if there was someone in our life who is 'unlovely' or irritates the 'snot' out of us...no names needed!!

\*But Jesus commands (not a suggestion) us to love them. We don't have to like how they act or how they have treated you or others. God says to love them and we can only do that with the love of God, that agape love. We must do this through Jesus by surrendering your will into Christ's Will. When we surrender our will we are able to overlook someone else's faults (and they may be able to overlook ours as well)

Discussion held about how to deal with hate or unforgiveness towards a person in our lives. Thoughts shared included:

-God is greater than anything this world can throw at us.

-Two wrongs do not make a right; hate hurts you more than the other person involved, robbing you of your joy.

-The grace of God is so great that we can ask God to forgive the hardness of our hearts.

-Jesus' love toward us has no barriers.

-Unforgiveness is a sin and God's grace can deal with that.

-Mark 11:25 and 26, 2 Corinthians 5:10 and Revelation 20 are verses that can help with this issue. All people who are in Christ will stand at the judgement seat to deal with wrongdoings. But being 'in Christ' is what guarantees our place in heaven, not our behaviors. Unforgiveness cannot

keep you out of Heaven if you have that relation with Jesus, you will have that assurance of an eternal home. When you ponder the Cross where Jesus not only died for our past sins, but also our future sins, we understand that forgiveness is an ongoing process. And we realize that grace from God brings us JOY!