

Joy Is Unselfish

by D.L. Moody

The sermon emphasizes the importance of experiencing joy through the salvation of others and obedience to God, rather than just personal happiness.

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:10, Psalm 16:11, Jeremiah 15:16, Matthew 28:19-20, John 3:29, Romans 15:13, Galatians 5:22, Philippians 4:4, James 1:2-3, 1 John 1:4

Topics: "Joy in Service", "The Nature of True Joy"

Description

D.L. Moody emphasizes that true joy transcends personal salvation and is found in the joy of leading others to Christ. He describes three types of joy, highlighting that the joy of seeing others saved is the highest honor and privilege. Moody contrasts happiness, which is dependent on circumstances, with a deeper, unshakeable joy that persists through trials and is rooted in obedience to God. He encourages believers to seek joy in the Word of God, which should inspire them to serve others and engage in Christian work. Ultimately, he asserts that genuine joy compels action and service in the vineyard of the Lord.

Transcript

Now, there are three kinds of joy; there is the joy of one's own salvation. I thought, when I first tasted that, it was the most delicious joy I had ever known, and that I could never get beyond it. But I found, afterward, there was something more joyful that, namely, the joy of the salvation of others. Oh, the privilege, the blessed privilege, to be used of God to win a soul to Christ, and see a man or woman being led out of bondage by some act of ours toward them. To think that God should condescend to allow us to be co-workers with Him. It is the highest honor we can wear. It surpasses the joy of our own salvation, this joy of seeing others saved. And then John said, He had no greater joy than to see His disciples walking in the truth. Every man who has been the means of leading souls to Christ understands what that means. young disciples, walk in the truth and you will have joy all the while.

I think there is a difference between happiness and joy. Happiness is caused by things which happen around me, and circumstances will mar it, but joy flows right on through trouble; joy flows on through the dark; joy flows in the night as well as in the day; joy flows all through persecution and opposition; if flows right along, for it is an unceasing fountain bubbling up in the heart; a secret spring which the world can't see and don't know anything about; but the Lord gives His people perpetual joy when they walk in obedience to Him.

This joy is fed by the Divine Word. Jeremiah say in chapter 15:16:

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy WORD was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord."

He ate the words, and what was the result? He said they were the joy and rejoicing of his heart. Now people should look for joy in the Word, and not in the world; they should look for the joy which the Scriptures furnish, and then go work in the vineyard; because a joy that don't send me out to some one else, a joy that don't impel me to go and help the poor drunkard, a joy that don't prompt me to visit the widow and the fatherless, a joy that don't cause me to go into the Mission Sunday-School or other Christian work, is not worth having, and is not from above; a joy that does not constrain me to go and work for the Master, is purely sentiment and not real joy.

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