

What Made Jesus Laugh?

As part of our quest to experience Jesus at a deeper level, Sunday's sermon focused on Jesus' single happiest moment as recorded in the Gospels.

1. Warm-up Question: Laughter is a wonderful gift from God. What's something that has made you laugh in the past week or two?
2. Take a look at the drawing of Jesus on p. 3. How does the drawing make you feel? Is it consistent with how you envision Jesus? Why do so few depictions of Jesus show him laughing?
3. Although there's no Gospel story that specifically says Jesus laughed, there is a story that says "that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit," making it the single happiest moment in the life of Jesus that's recorded in the Gospels. To discover what made Jesus so happy, let's read Luke 10:1-21.
 - a. Why do you suppose Jesus appointed these 70 people instead of just relying on himself and the 12 disciples? What was he trying to do here?
 - b. What do you think verse 2 means? What should we draw from it?
 - c. What do you think verse 4 means? What should we draw from it?
 - d. The specific mission of the 70 is defined in verse 9, "Cure the sick and say to those who are there, 'The kingdom of God has come near you.'" Jeff suggested that these 70 followers of Jesus represent us and the mission God has given each of us. Viewed that way, who are we, and what is our purpose in life? What does it look like for us, in our life context to live this mission?
 - e. Reread verse 17. As they returned from their assignment, why were the 70 so excited? What had they learned/discovered on their mission?
 - f. What do you think verse 18 means?
 - g. What does verse 19 mean?
 - h. Verse 21 says, "In that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit." Why? What made Jesus so happy?
 - i. If you were depicting this scene in a movie, i.e., Jesus rejoicing in the Spirit, what would it look like? What do you envision Jesus doing to express his joy?
4. On Sunday, Jeff summed it up this way, "What makes Jesus happier than anything else in the world is when ordinary people like you and me discover who we are, why we're here, and the magnitude of what we can do. You are 'sent' into every situation

- you go into – not by happenstance – but by the providence of God for the express purpose of ‘being Jesus’ in that situation.”
- a. Do you feel “sent”? How does that way of seeing life sit with you?
 - b. The purpose for which the 70 were “sent” was twofold: (1) to speak for Jesus – “whoever listens to you listens to me” (vs. 16); and (2) to do what Jesus was doing – healing people and situations in ways that let people know God is near (vs. 9). In John 14:12, Jesus said, “Very truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these.” How literally should we take that? Do you think you can do greater things than Jesus?
5. The thought of being Jesus in the situations into which we’re sent is both exciting and daunting. Yet living that way can feel deeply rewarding.
- a. Tell us about a recent situation you’ve experienced where you (or someone else) had a chance to be Jesus? Did you (or they) rise to the occasion? What happened? How were others impacted? How do you think Jesus felt about what happened?
 - b. Tell us about a situation you currently face where you have a chance to be Jesus? What would it look like for you to be Jesus in that situation? Is it hard to rise to the occasion? If so, why?
6. Jeff said, “I want to make sure we understand that bringing Jesus into each situation is not just about blessing others, it’s also about blessing ourselves. Even if I were the only person in the world, it would still be critically important for me to bring Jesus into each situation I face for the sake of my own serenity and strength. Don’t just be Jesus to others; be Jesus to yourself?”
- a. What does it mean to you to be Jesus to yourself? What does that look like?
 - b. We often find ourselves in situations we never expected. We often find ourselves thinking, “It wasn’t supposed to happen this way.” We burn up a lot of energy and serenity resenting those situations. Tell us about a situation of personal disappointment you’re facing? Do you believe you were “sent” into that situation? Sent for what purpose? Does seeing it that way help? How so?
 - c. Read Mark 4:35-41. What can we learn from this story about how we can be more like Jesus when we find ourselves in unexpected storms?
 - d. James Reid says, “The way out of life’s frustrations is found not be resenting our limitations but by accepting the place of frustration as the sphere of God’s purpose.” Do you buy that? Your thoughts?
 - e. In Genesis 28:16, Jacob says, “Surely the Lord is in this place – and I did not know it.” When have you encountered God in unexpected places?

Jesus Laughing, by Jean Keaton

