****

**How to Have More Joy, *“Fruitology”* Series (Part 4) – 7.12.20**

* **Ice Breaker: What has been your favorite place of employment & what did you enjoy most about it?**
* **What thoughts on joy resonated with you from this message?**

1. *“…* ***the fruit of the Spirit is*** *love,* ***joy*** *…”* (Galatians 5:22)

* **How would you describe the difference between joy & happiness to a non-believer?**
* **If joy is a by-product of our connection with God’s Spirit, what is our part in the process?**
* **If someone asked you, “How can I live in joy when I have so many problems in life?” how would you respond?**

1. “*... when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them,* ***to accept his lot*** *and* ***be happy* [attitude of joy with outward expression] *in his work*** *— this is a gift of God. He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because* ***God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart****.*” (Ecclesiastes 5:19–20)

* **What aspects of life are you enjoying the most in this season? Which ones are challenging your joy?**
* **What might be some reasons people have a hard time accepting their circumstances or lot in life? What advice would you give them?**
* **If we consistently lived out these verses at home & work, what might happen?**

1. “*…* ***you will fill me with joy in your presence****, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*” (Psalm 16:11)

*“As the deer pants for streams of water ... My soul thirsts for ... the living God. When can I go and meet with God?* ... *These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how* ***I used to go with the multitude****, leading the procession to the house of God,* ***with shouts of joy and thanksgiving*** *among the festive throng.*” (Psalm 42:1-2, 4)

* **What are some joy stealers?**
* **What are some things that have helped you keep your soul from becoming dehydrated during difficult seasons?**
* **Describe a time when you came to church with a heavy heart but chose to worship anyway. What happened?**

1. “*The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them;* ***he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God*** *— he and his whole family.*” (Acts 16:34)

* **Just prior to this event, Paul & Silas were in jail, singing praises to God while the other prisoners listened**

**(Acts 16:22-26). How can joy in hard times impact unbelievers? Share personal examples.**

* **Paul & Silas shared their faith with the jailer & he received Christ. Tell of a time when you shared your faith with another person & it boosted your joy.**

**How can we pray for you?**