

Lesson 6: God's Pleasure in Giving You the Kingdom

Primary Objectives:

1. Explore What Is at the Heart of God's Disposition Toward Us
2. Address Potential Barriers to Internalizing God's Pleasure in His People
3. Reflect on God's Pleasure to Give You the Kingdom

1. Explore What Is at the Heart of God's Disposition Toward Us

1.1. Examine the contrast in the following verses. How do the negative statements amplify and clarify the positive statements about what God takes pleasure in?

Psalm 147:10–11:

His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,
but **the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,**
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

1.2. Share an example of a time when you took great delight in doing good to another person. What made that such an enjoyable experience?

1.3. Restate the underlined phrases in the passage below as 3 unique promises God makes to his people.

Jeremiah 32:40–41: I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. ⁴¹ I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.

Promise #1: God _____ you good.

(Rom 8:28, Ps 84:11, Isa 38:17)

Promise #2: God _____ you good.

(Deut 30:9, 2 Chron 16:9, Ps 23:6, Ps 35:27)

Promise #3: God _____ you good.

(Isa 62:4-5)

2. Address Potential Barriers to Internalizing God's Pleasure in His People.

2.1. Compare Zephaniah 3:17 with Jeremiah 32:40-41. What is different about God's rejoicing?

Zephaniah 3:17:

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;
he will **rejoice over you** with **gladness**; he will quiet you by his love;
he will **exult over you** with **loud singing**.

2.2. Circle any "negative" words occurring in the passage below that describe undesirable states.

Zephaniah 3:11–20:

11 "On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain.

12 But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord,

13 those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid."

14 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

17 The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

18 I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

19 Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

20 At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the Lord.

2.3. Discuss *what* things circled in the passage you most relate to personally, and *how* they create barriers to experiencing God's joy "over you"?

2.4. Review Zephaniah 3:11-20 again and note below any actions that God takes to remove these barriers that threaten our ability to enjoy God’s rejoicing “over you.”

Implications:

1. God is aware _____ to experiencing God’s pleasure “over you.”
2. God declares _____ completely remove those barriers.

Zeph 3:14: Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

3. Reflect on God’s Pleasure to Give You the Kingdom

3.1. Share an example of when you took part in a surprise party or gift for someone you loved. Why is that something we take pleasure in?

3.2. Study the following passage and answer the questions below.

Luke 12:32–34: Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

1. What does it mean for God “to give” the kingdom? Why do you think God takes pleasure in that?

Ephesians 2:6–7:

1 Peter 1:3–5:

2. What do the imperatives (Fear not! Sell...and give! Provide!) imply about how we can/should live in light of the fact that God is pleased to “give you the kingdom”?

Two practical outcomes when we take this to heart:

1. Experience _____ in the midst of hardship and suffering.

Matthew 5:10–12:

1 Peter 1:6–9:

2. Exercise _____ in the midst of hardship and suffering

Hebrews 10:34–35:

Matthew 25:34–36:

Concluding Encouragements:

1 Corinthians 2:9–10

Revelation 21:1–4; Revelation 22:3–5

Ephesians 3:20–21