

Don't Rejoice in Your Power, Rejoice in God's Grace

Luke 10:17-24 ▪ October 19, 2025 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

Don't rejoice in your _____. (17-20)

Rejoice in God's _____. (21-24)

Luke 10:17-24

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"

¹⁸ And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.

²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

²¹ In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²² All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

²³ Then turning to the disciples he said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it." (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: Share about a time when you experienced a significant personal success or accomplishment. How did you feel at that time and why? How long did that joy last?

Read & Discuss: Luke 10:17-24

1. The disciples returned from their mission with joy, amazed that even the demons were subject to them in Jesus' name (v. 17). Why is this specific success—power over demons—such a cause for celebration for them? What makes spiritual power so tempting to rejoice in?
2. After hearing from His disciples, Jesus declares, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (v. 18). Why might Jesus have felt the need to point this out in the context of His disciples' joy?
3. Jesus responds to their excitement by confirming their authority, saying, "Behold, I have given you authority..." (v. 19). Why does Jesus immediately reassure them of this power after they express prideful excitement over it?
4. In verse 20, Jesus tells His disciples where they should be finding joy. What is the fundamental difference between rejoicing because demons are subject to them and rejoicing because their names are written in heaven? Why is it so important that we do what Jesus says here?
5. In verses 21-22, Jesus breaks out in praise to the Father. How would you summarize what Jesus is intending to communicate with His comments here? Why does Jesus choose this specific moment—right after the disciples return boasting of their power—to praise the Father as He does?
6. Jesus says, "Yes, Father, for such was your gracious will" (v. 21). How does resting in the Father's gracious, sovereign will provide a deeper, more stable source of joy than rejoicing in temporary successes? What specific difference does it make in your response to ministry failure or opposition, if you truly believe that God's gracious will is being accomplished?
7. Jesus then addresses the disciples privately, saying, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see!" (v. 23). Why is knowing Christ personally an even greater privilege than what prophets and kings longed for? Since we are living in the time of fulfillment that prophets and kings only dreamed of, what should the weight of this unique privilege produce in our attitude toward sharing the Gospel?

Apply: What can you do this week to ensure that you shift your focus from rejoicing in your own power or success to rejoicing in your relationship and security with God?

Pray: Pray that our hearts would find satisfaction not in success or victories, but in the unwavering fact that we are accepted by God through Jesus.