



Part 3: The Life-Changing Choice

Big Idea

This week Pastor Dino reminded us that abundant joy is a by-product of an intimate relationship with Jesus. While the world binge-hunts for the ever-elusive joy, we can have it every minute of every day because we have Jesus. It's not circumstantial joy either. It's a lasting joy which pushes through and prevails, regardless of what's happening around us. We are free. We are liberated into biblical joy and a clear conscience, which frees us from past hurts, guilt, and shame. It's not merely a good choice or a better choice; it's the best choice, the life-changing choice: Jesus. The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but Jesus promises that choosing Him changes everything.

"The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]" (John 10:10). AMP

From the acronym, we find the divine order of joy.

J – Jesus. We must live Christ-centered lives. (Matthew 6:33)

O – Others. Serving others leads to joy. (Acts 20:35.)

Y – Yourself. Choose to be third. If we're out of order, we never find joy. (1 Peter 5:7)

With Christ-centered hearts, we are encouraged to keep looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. In Hebrews 12, we find that men of faith, a great cloud of witnesses are watching us and cheering us onward. To run a good race, we must keep our eyes on Jesus. (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Practicing these life-changing principles will enhance our joy. Life-changing joy is 1) lived Inside-Out – it's a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23); 2) lived beyond circumstances – joy follows obedience; 3) lived with others – joy is found in community (Psalm 16:11) and 4) always going to win – joy is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

Discussion Questions

- Why should you choose Jesus?
- What does it mean to have abundant joy?
- How has your life been changed by choosing Jesus?

Prayer Focus

Pray for the lost to be found, and for a harvest of joy as they make the life-changing choice to follow Jesus.