

A Little Bible Study on Joy



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Part
Two

Recap from Last Week

- Why Lutherans don't speak about joy
- The Lutheran Church needs to rekindle the joy that the "old church" had (Sasse)
- Joy is a fruit of the Spirit ([Gal. 5:22](#)), not something that we create
- God gives us joy in His Son, Jesus. The tidings of His Coming and Forgiveness are the source of joy ([Luke 2](#))

Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious

- LSB 548
- Sing all three stanzas
- How does the author use the word joy?

Luke 15:11-32

- Read [Luke 15:11-32](#) to yourself (1 minute or so)
- What is the most common name for this parable?
- Helmut Thielicke called the parable of [Luke 15:11-32](#), “the parable of the waiting father.” After carefully re-reading the parable, note how the father’s waiting issues forth in joy.



The Source of Joy

- “The cornerstone of the Pharisaic religion was ‘joy through compliance’”
Where was the Pharisees’ joy located?
- How does this differ from “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” (John 14:15)?





Riding the snowmobile





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pp. 13-15



The end of the ride

How had the prodigal
son ended his “joy
ride” before returning
to the Father? See
[Proverbs 1:16](#)



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The description

- Read [Isaiah 40:29-31](#). How is this Old Testament prophecy descriptive of the prodigal son?



Luther

17. *He will rejoice over you with gladness.* All these things signify that their consciences would experience that fatherly sweetness of the kingdom of the Lord. The sense is this: “You will feel joy. You will feel in your conscience that the Lord is kindly disposed toward you, that He surely is a kind Father to you in all things.” You see, the Lord is said to rejoice over us when He causes us to sense His favor, τὴν αὐτοῦ χρηστότητα (“His kindness”). He has expressed the nature of the kingdom of Christ very aptly and emphatically. For thus it happens for the righteous that He allows them to be attacked, to be molested in various ways, and to be troubled by many evils, so that they be conformed to their King. Yet He adds that feeling of joy, that security of heart, so that all things may be sweeter, so that nothing can separate them from the God, [Rom. 8:39](#).



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Martin Luther, *Luther's Works*, 18:361

The “Other” Son

- Why does the older son reject the father’s rejoicing?
- How do we refuse our Father’s joy over repentance?



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Final Thought

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Helmut Thielicke, *The Waiting Father* (Harper 1959), 29