

A Little Bible
Study on Joy



The Joy of the
Holy Spirit:

A “Joy Set Before”

Chapter
Four

Recap from Last Week

- Is there a relationship between **grace** and **joy**?
What is it?

Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me?

- LSB 756
- How does the author use the word joy or rejoice?

The Secret

“The secret to living a good news life in a bad news world is the joyous knowledge - by the gracious enlightenment of the Holy Spirit - that Christians are not always happy and joyous. Far from it.” -p. 27

- Why is this such a secret?

The burden of joy

- How can demonstrating joy become a burden?
- hypocrisy
- deep despair

Jeremy

- Read the story of Jeremy on pages 28-29
- What can we learn from the story of Jeremy?

Joy & the Holy Spirit

- Does the absence of joy mean the absence of the Holy Spirit? See the following verses:
 - Ecclesiastes 3:2, 4
 - Psalm 42 (skim and summarize)
 - James 5:10-11
 - Hebrews 12:2 (notice *when* the joy appears)

The Emotions of Jesus

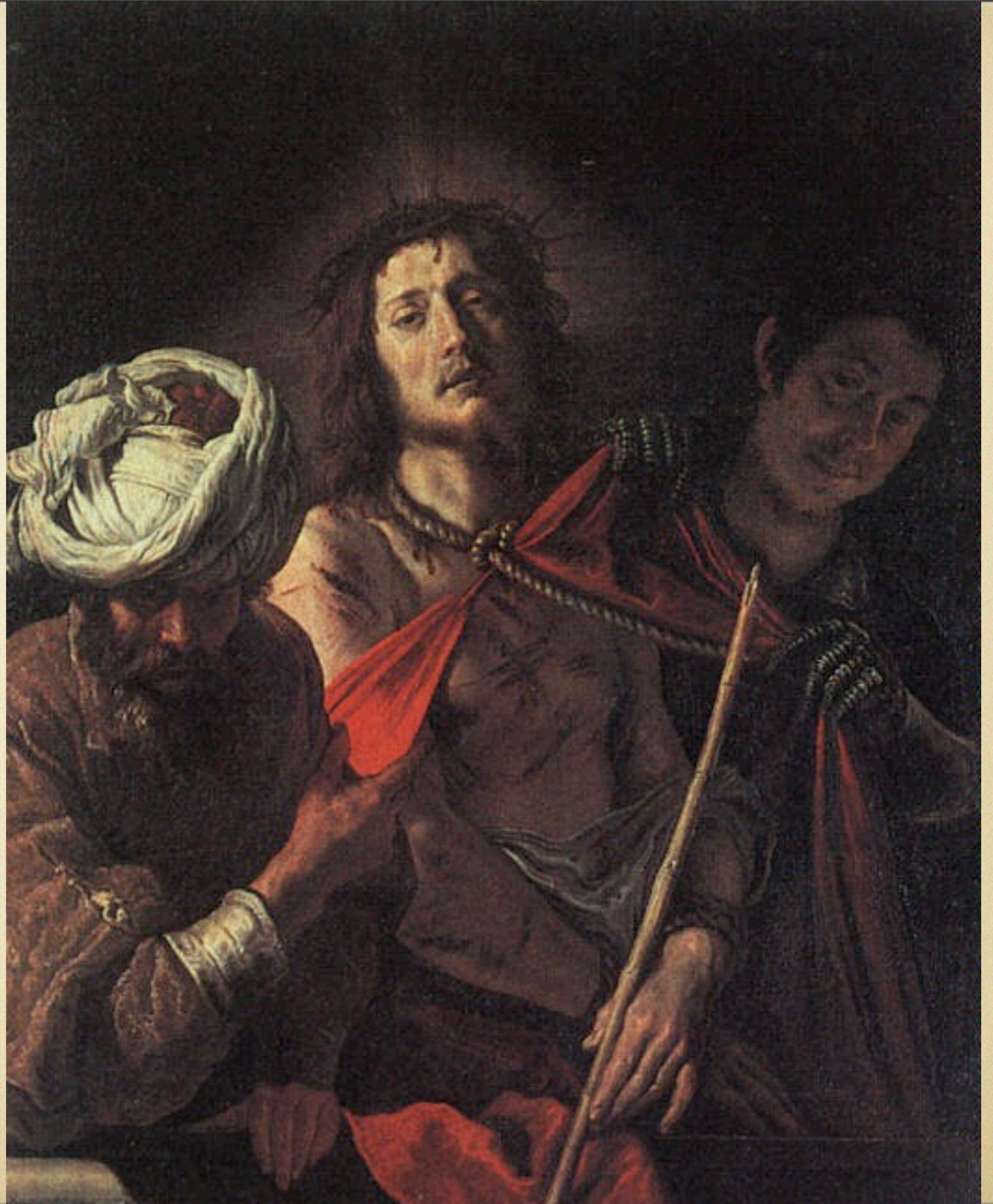
As a baby, Jesus **cried** and was **hungry**. Later he was **tempted** (Matthew 4:1). He was **tired** (Mark 6:31). He **wept** (John 11:35). He was **angry** (Matthew 21:12; 23:1ff). He was **frustrated** with his disciples on many occasions (Matthew 16:23; 17:17). He was **deeply "troubled"** (Mark 14:33). He was **"annoyed"** that little children were prevented from seeing him (Mark 10:14). He **mourned** and felt **compassion** (Luke 7:13). He was **sad** and **mourned** when John the Baptizer was murdered (Matthew 14:13).

The Emotions of Jesus

He was **disappointed** by nine lepers who failed to return (Luke 17:17). He **felt dishonor** and **pain** over his own family (Matthew 13:57). He **felt rejection** (Matthew 21:42). He **anguished** over Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37). He had **angst** over people seeking his death (Matthew 26:1ff). He **experienced betrayal** (Matthew 26:24). He was **sorrowful** "even to the point of death" (Matthew 26:38). He felt **disappointment** (Matthew. 26:40ff). He felt **deserted** (Matthew 26:56). He felt **indignant** over false accusations (Matthew 26:57ff). He felt **pain** (Matthew 26:67). He felt **sorrow** over ridicule and insult (Matthew 27:29). He **felt the abandonment** of the Father (Matthew 27:46). He **felt death** (Matthew 27:50).

Ecce
Homo:
“Behold
the Man”

by
Domenico
Feti
(1559-1625)



Are there any
emotions we
experience that
Jesus did not?

A Little Luther

Paul himself exclaims (Rom. 7:24): “Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” He accuses his “body,” which he really should have loved, and gives it a very ugly name, calling it his “death,” as though he were saying: “My body afflicts and harasses me more than death itself.” Even in his case this interrupted the joy of the Spirit. He did not always have pleasant and happy thoughts about his future inheritance in heaven, but over and over he experienced sadness of the spirit and fear.

Luther's Works 26:383

Something to Think About

“Then the church’s time of waiting will be over, then the end of the time of faith will have come; then joy will no longer be veiled in fear and holding back; then will come the time of fulfillment, the time of everlasting seeing, when blessing breaks in.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “Ascension Day Sermon 1933” (DBW 12:471)

