

Title	The promise of joy
Main Passage	Malachi 3:1 and Luke 2:25-34
Preacher	Nic Lines
Series	Joy is for life not just for Christmas

Summary

God promised joy would come, and it did come through Jesus

Group Questions

Nic defined joy as: the **settled assurance** that God is in control of all the details of my life, the **quiet confidence** that ultimately everything is going to be alright, and the **determined choice** to praise God in every situation

He also defined happiness as a fleeting circumstantial feeling.

1. What do you think about these definitions and how strong is your joy at the moment?

Nic quoted Tim Keller: "It is remarkable that in all of his writings Paul's prayers for his friends contain no appeals for changes in their circumstances."

Whilst Nic didn't say that these means we should never pray for a change in our circumstances it does reveal that joy is more valuable than happiness.

2. How can we better seek joy over happiness?

Nic stated that Jesus isn't simply the light at the end of the tunnel but He's the sustaining joy that keeps us going through the tunnel. However, in his personal experience he shared how easy it is for us to run to something other than God to find comfort in times of difficulty.

Turning to something other God is actually the fundamental problem with mankind and so this is something we need to continually fight against.

3. What are some of the things that you run to for comfort?

Why not finishing by praying for one another, especially for those who need breakthrough in this area