

**GROWING IN JOY**  
**#SermonJoy**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**Growing During The Holidays Part 5**  
**Dr. Mark Jackson, December 17, 2017**  
**Luke 2:8-20**

**Philippians 4:4** Be full of joy in the Lord always. I will say again, be full of joy. (NCV)

**What is Joy?**

**Luke 2:8-9** That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and they became very frightened. (NCV)

- Joy isn't elsewhere, it's HERE (vs 8-9)

**Ecclesiastes 5:20a** God deals out joy in the present, the now. (MSG)

- Joy isn't found, it's SENT (vs 10)

**Luke 2:10** The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news that will be a great joy to all the people." (NCV)

- Joy isn't a feeling, it's a CHOICE

**Philippians 1:18b...** And I will continue to rejoice. (NLT)

**Three Choices For Joy**

**1. CHOOSE TO GO AND SEE**

**Luke 2:15-16** When the angels left them and went back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened which the Lord has told us about." <sup>16</sup> So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in a feeding box. (NCV)

**Psalms 68:3** When the righteous see God in action they'll... laugh and sing for joy. (MSG)

**2. CHOOSE TO GO AND TELL**

**Luke 2:17-18** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had

been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. (NIV)

**Psalms 107:22b** ...With joy they should tell what he has done. (NCV)

### **3. CHOOSE TO GO BACK AND REJOICE**

**Luke 2:20** Then **the shepherds went back** to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything they had seen and heard... (NCV)

**James 1:2-3** ...when **troubles** come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup> For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. (NLT)

**Hebrews 10:34** ...You even had joy when all that you owned was taken from you, because you knew you had something better and more lasting. (NCV)

**Luke 1:47** My spirit finds its joy in God, my Savior. (GW)

**Psalms 5:11a** But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You... (NKJV)