

AND THEY WERE GLAD

John 20:20

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Jesus came into this world to make people glad, to fix broken hearts, to fill people with joy however Satan wants everyone to believe that Jesus came to take away, not to save, to bring false joy, not real joy and in some ways he has convinced many that being a Christian is not a good thing. It is true that Christians have sorrow, they have sick bodies sometimes and are always under temptation and often persecuted however there is a joy that Christians have that nobody or anything can take away and it only gets brighter as one gets closer to eternity. When Jesus appeared to the disciples who were hiding behind closed, locked doors after Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection they became very glad. What was it that made the disciples glad?

I. WHAT IT WAS NOT

1. It was not riches.
 - Most of the disciples were poor fishermen.
 - Jesus never gave any of His followers/disciples riches.
 - Some people have money in the bank, but it can be taken away in various ways. Riches won't do a person any good when death comes.
2. It was not their friends.
 - Everyone has friends, some close companions.
 - Most people have a family.
 - The disciples had closed the door to all their family and friends in fear.
 - The disciples were disliked about as much as Jesus was.
3. It was not because they thought themselves special, even righteous.
 - What would the disciples have seen if they took a good, close look at themselves?
 - They had forsaken Jesus when He needed them most.
 - One of them had denied knowing Jesus.
 - One of them had betrayed Jesus.
 - What would you see if you took a good look at yourself?
4. It was not because Jesus appeared suddenly in the very room where they were and they could see Him.
 - They were surprised when Jesus appeared, scared, even withdrew from Him.
 - One who was not there and was told about it later didn't believe them.
 - It is not seeing Jesus with the physical eye that brings real joy and gladness that the disciples had.

II. WHAT IT WAS THAT MADE THE DISCIPLES GLAD

1. When they saw Jesus' hands, feet and side they realized that Jesus had finished what He had come to do.
 - They then remembered what Jesus has been trying to tell them for a long time.
 - They understood what Jesus had been saying and later on they wrote to others the teachings of Jesus.
 - What Jesus had gone through and why finally sank in.
 - *"...Who His own self, bare our sins in His own body on the tree..."*

2. The disciples saw all that what they should have suffered was suffered for them by Jesus.
 - They were not going to be sad anymore.
 - They say Jesus as the Lord of their righteousness.
 - What Jesus suffered, He suffered for all who would believe in Him.

3. The disciples saw Jesus was alive and their living Head.
 - **"...Because I live, ye shall live also..."**
 - **"...In the world ye shall have tribulation; but, be of good cheer, I have overcome the world..."**
 - Even though the disciples felt sad, guilty, they still were able to be glad, to rejoice for Jesus was now an ever living Savior that death would never touch again.
 - They saw Jesus as reigning till all enemies were put under His feet.

CONCLUSION:

1. Where does YOUR joy come from?
 - Riches? Friends? Your own feelings of being good?
 - From your knowledge of the Bible?
 - From your many prayers?

2. Believer, seek a sight of Jesus.
 - Seeing Jesus brings joy that will never pass away.
 - Friends come and go.
 - Family members grow up and move out.
 - Riches can disappear overnight.
 - Jesus said, **"...I will never leave thee nor forsake thee..."**

3. Some believers in Jesus were one time happy, rejoicing but have since lost that joy and happiness. Look again to Jesus.
 - The disciples had joy once and lost it, but then Jesus came to them and they were glad once again.
 - It can happen to YOU too.

4. What would have happened to the disciples if they had not seen Jesus?

5. What will happen to people who never look at/to Jesus?

6. Look to Jesus and have true peace, true joy, a joy that the world nor Satan can take away.