



# Sermon Growth Guide

**June 22, 2025**

## **There is Joy, Luke 7:18-23**

**Key Verse:** Luke 7:22.

“So he replied to the messengers, ‘Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.’”

**Big Idea:** Love is willing the good for the other even at the sacrifice of the self.

---

### **Foundations**

According to Galatians 5, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. As you follow Jesus, His Holy Spirit is at work in you bringing those nine characteristics to ripen. He is doing that so that your life more accurately reflects the life and character of Jesus. Doesn't it stand to reason that we should find these nine characteristics on full display in the life and ministry of Jesus?

In a world increasingly marked by anxiety, addiction, and disillusionment, the hope and joy found in Jesus Christ shine all the more brightly. In Luke 7:18-23, Jesus answers John the Baptist's doubts not with rebuke, but with the evidence of the Kingdom breaking in—healings, restoration, and Good News for the poor. This moment reveals the deep joy of Jesus, the joy of God's promises fulfilled. It is on the foundation of the hope of the coming kingdom of Jesus Christ that we stand, filled with joy!

C.S. Lewis wrote that we are “far too easily pleased,” settling for fleeting pleasures when infinite joy is offered in Christ. Joy, unlike happiness, is not rooted in circumstances but in the hope of what God has done and will do. It is resilient and enduring. As followers of Jesus, the Holy Spirit grows joy within us—fruit that bears witness to a better life and a better kingdom. In Jesus, even in dark times, we glimpse the joy of a world made new.

### **Understanding God's Word**

Read Luke 7:18-23 together. When have you wrestled with doubt like John did in verse 20? How did you bring those questions to God? Jesus doesn't rebuke John for asking honest questions. What does that reveal about God's character? How might this inform the way you relate to God when you're struggling? Jesus responds to John's doubt not with theology but with evidence of God at work (v.22). Where have you seen God at work in your life or others' lives recently? When have you experienced joy in your walk with God? How might we cultivate joy even in trials?

### **Applying God's Word**

John couldn't get to Jesus, so he sent his disciples to ask questions on his behalf. When have you experienced another believer helping you “see Jesus” more clearly in a difficult time? How can we be those kinds of people in our group? What expectations do you find yourself placing on God? Where do those expectations come from? Think about a time when your life didn't go the way you had hoped. – Looking back now, where can you see God's hand at work in that situation?

### **Witnessing God's Word**

In what ways can we “go back and report what we have seen and heard” like John's disciples (v.22)? – How can you share stories of God's faithfulness with someone who may be struggling?