

Advent Week 3 The Joy of His Presence

聖誕降臨節系列 第一周 祂同在的喜樂

Four traditional themes to the advent season. • Peace

- Hope
- Joy • Love. 聖誕降臨節的四個傳統主題：平安，盼望，喜樂，和愛

The old Billy Joel song, “Honesty” came to mind. He said, Honesty is such a lonely word Everyone is so untrue. Honesty is hardly ever heard And mostly what I need from you . 我想到Billy Joel一首名為”誠實”的老歌。歌裡唱到“誠實是一個孤獨的詞,每個人都如此不誠實. 我們很少聽到誠實, 而這是最需要從你得到的。”

Luke 2:10-11

10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

路加福音 2:10-11 Chinese Union Version (Traditional)

10 那天使對他們說：不要懼怕！我報給你們大喜的信息，是關乎萬民的；
11 因今天在大衛的城裡，為你們生了救主，就是主基督。

The Greek word for GREAT, used here, looks like this: μέγα,

Which doesn't seem so cool, until you translate it into English, and it looks like this: Mega 希臘語中的“大”這個詞是

μέγα。它翻譯過來就是“超級”

The angel is bringing “good news of MEGA-JOY!” 天使帶來的是超級喜樂

• But here's the thing about Joy - and it's obvious based on what I already mentioned - joy is elusive. 喜樂是易逝的

In order to explain this I want to talk about three things:

要解釋我們怎樣失去喜樂，我需要說三樣東西：

Shallow Joy 淺顯的喜樂

Deep Sorrow 深刻的悲傷

Deep Joy 深刻的喜樂

“Tread softly, breath peacefully, laugh hysterically.” Nelson Mandela. 輕聲的行走，平靜的呼吸，大聲的歡笑 納爾遜 曼德拉

James 1:2-4

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

雅各書 1:2-4 Chinese Union Version (Traditional)

2 我的弟兄們，你們落在百般試煉中，都要以為大喜樂；3 因為知道你們的信心經過試驗，就生忍耐。4 但忍耐也當成功，使你們成全、完備，毫無缺欠。

We have this thing we could call “THE PURSUIT OF ALIVENESS” . We have an entire vocabulary dedicated to that pursuit of our aliveness. 对活出自己的追求

, 常常導致下面的結果

- Regret 後悔
- Remorse 懊惱
- Guilt 罪咎
- Shame 羞恥
- Humiliation 屈辱

Because if you think about the last time you felt one of those feelings, I’ d be pretty safe saying it was preceded by the the centralization of you.

因為你如果回想上一次你有這些情緒的時候，我很確定在這之前你把自己放在中心的位置。

- And it is hard for joy to exist in the middle of:
- Regret 後悔
- Remorse 懊惱
- Guilt 罪咎
- Shame 羞恥
- Humiliation 屈辱

而喜樂很難在後悔

, 懊惱

, 罪咎

, 羞恥

和

屈辱中存在

Illustration: Babies 嬰孩的故事

See, when I' m at the center of the story, and the plot turns sideways, there' s no where else to turn. But when my attention is fixed on Jesus, it tells me there' s always a way out. There' s always a plot twist. There' s always a backup plan.

當我把自己放在故事中心的時候，情形常常急轉直下，以至於無路可走。但是當我的注意力在耶穌身上時，我就看見總有一個出路，總有情節的轉折，總有後備的計畫。

- And that, in THAT moment, can deliver a JOY that transcends any circumstance. 在那樣的時刻，我們可以經歷超越環境的喜樂。

- I love this quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer 我很喜歡 Dietrich Bonhoeffer 的這句話

“Just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all. God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness. succor in abandonment. No evil can befall us: whatever men may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

當一切都壓向我們到一個幾乎無法承受的程度時，聖誕的消息來告訴我們，我們所有的想法都是錯誤的，而我們認為是邪惡和黑暗的東西却其實是好的和光明的，因為它來自與神。是我們的眼睛有問題，僅此而已。神躺在馬槽裡，財富在貧窮中，光明在黑暗中。救助在棄絕中。邪惡不會降臨我們：無論人們對我們做什麼，他們都只能服侍那位在暗中顯露為愛並統治世界和我們生命的神。

Illustration: Tea tree oil 茶樹油的故事

We need to liberally apply The Joy of Jesus during times like these.

在這樣的時候我們需要大量的塗抹耶穌的喜樂。

- Benediction 祝禱

願你們成為這樣的人，不滿足於淺顯，天真，易忘的快樂；也不陷在深深的悲傷裡；願你穿過黑暗到達另外一邊，願你經歷在把你的生命和世界的中心放在耶穌身上的時候所得到的深刻的喜樂。