

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

Mark 2:18-22

18 Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" 19 And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. 20 The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. 21 No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. 22 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."

Study Guide 6 November 2011 – The Disciples' Joy



Summary

Jesus and his disciples had an infectious joy, which upset the Pharisees because their religious ritual had robbed them of joy.

Jesus' disciples had great joy because they recognized the great price that God had paid to redeem them. They understood their great freedom and their complete submission to a perfect, gracious God.

A life founded on ritual says, "if I do X then God will do Y" but the gospel shows us that a life of sacrament is one that says, "because God has done X therefore I do Y". This produces disciples that give their lives for God, but who keep their joy (indeed they even have their joy multiplied).

It is only when we recognize this right response to God and His gospel that we can relate to God the way He wants us to.

Key points

Our joy comes from knowing that God loves us and has paid the highest price to make us His forevermore.

Questions

>>What does this passage tell me about God?

>>What have I learnt about the way I relate to God?

>>Where does my joy come from?

>>What do I need to change about the way I am living my life?

Final thoughts

We don't have to "try harder" to make God happy. We need to center ourselves in Christ and His sacrifice, and live lives that please God from the power given to us by the death of Jesus.