

INTRODUCTION

(v1-2) “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, **who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despised the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God?**”

Obvious question: “Where is the joy in being arrested, a mock trial, scourging, and a crucifixion?”

Jesus is not deranged, out of His mind, crazy, has a screw loose, or lost His marbles. He is not foolish, goofy, or senseless.

Gospel of Mark records 3 times that Jesus predicted this event:

(Mark 8:31) “And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.”

(Mark 9:31) “For He taught His disciples and said to them, The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”

(Mark 10:32-34) “Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him.

Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”

The “joy set before Him” and being able to “endure the cross” is that the ultimate joy in gift-giving involves 3 things:

The gift is needed.
The gift is given voluntarily.
The gift required a sacrifice.

➤ When any one of these is eliminated, the “joy” is diminished.

1. THE GIFT IS NEEDED

Have you ever given a gift that wasn't needed?

We are at a party, and the honoree is opening gifts.

We've inquired about what they need, and our gift is over there.

We're telling others, "Wait till they see what we brought for them."

The gift they now open is exactly the same as what we brought for them.

Our joy has just been diminished. They don't need our gift.

We say, "Exchange it, get something you do need."

Jesus, "enduring a cross," is giving us something that we need.

(Isaiah 59:1-2) "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But you iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you ... "

(Romans 3:23) "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God"

So, we sing: #376 He Paid A Debt
 #513 I Will Sing of My Redeemer

2. THE GIFT IS GIVEN VOLUNTARILY

Have you ever been required to gift (something) unwillingly?

Two siblings argue over one item.

Dad or Mom step in and have one return it to the other.
They do it, but, not willingly (drop it or shove it).

Jesus, "enduring a cross," went through that event willingly.

(John 10:15) "As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father;
and I lay down My life for the sheep"

(v18) "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself.
I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.
This command I have received from My Father."

So, we sing: #361 They Are Nailed To The Cross
 #197 O 'Twas Wonderful Love

3.

INVOLVES A SACRIFICE

3. THE GIFT WAS SACRIFICIAL

Have you ever given a gift that didn't cost you anything? (little thought)

When Christine hears about someone having a baby, immediately, *thinks about a blanket*, she knows they need it, wants to crochet one, and starts going through the pattern books, buys the yarn, and spends lots of time making it.

There's lots of sacrifice in choosing the *yarn*, getting it, and sitting on the couch crocheting it. (sometimes having to un-do it) (sometimes going back to a store to get more yarn)

Jesus, "enduring the cross," sacrificed Himself for the gift of our redemption.

(Romans 5:8-9) "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath thru Him"

(Hebrews 10:9-10) "Then He said, Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God. He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus once for all."

Gave ^{to a} head / crown of thorns, ^{to} face / dirty human spit,
cheeks / to be slapped, shoulders / robe of mockery,
back / to be scourged, hands and feet / Roman nails,
side / to be pierced by a Roman spear,
garment / to the soldiers at the foot of the cross,
mother / to the beloved apostle John,
spirit / back to God
life / for you and for me
everything He had / did it with "joy" for our redemption

"for the joy set before Him" - needed, voluntarily, sacrificial
Eliminate any one of these and "joy" is diminished!

So, we sing: #514 Redeemed
#386 He Loves Me

CLOSE

"JOY SET BEFORE HIM (JESUS)"

(Hebrews 12:1 – 3)

INTRODUCTION - (v2) “looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame ... “

Question: “Where is the joy in mock trials, scourging, and crucifixion?”

Mark's gospel records 3 times that Jesus predicts this event.
(Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:32-34)

The “joy set before Him” and being willing to “endure the cross” is that the “ultimate joy” in gift-giving involves 3 things:

The gift is needed, the gift is given voluntarily, and the gift involves a sacrifice.

Eliminate any one of these and “the joy” in giving is diminished.

1. THE GIFT IS NEEDED

Have you ever given a gift that wasn't needed by the recipient?

Jesus, “enduring the cross,” is giving us something that we need.
(Isaiah 59:1-2) “your iniquities have separated you from your God”
(Romans 3:23) “for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God”

#376 He Paid A Debt and #513 I Will Sing of My Redeemer

2. THE GIFT IS GIVEN VOLUNTARILY

Have you ever given a gift unwillingly, grudgingly?

Jesus, “enduring the cross,” went through that event willingly.
(John 10:15, v18)

#361 They Are Nailed To The Cross and #197 O 'Twas Wonderful Love

3. THE GIFT INVOLVED A SACRIFICE

Ever given a gift that didn't cost you anything? (with little thought?)

Jesus, “enduring the cross,” sacrificed Himself for the gift of our redemption.
(Romans 5:6-11; Hebrews 10:9-10)

#514 Redeemed and #386 He Loves Me (#382 Why Did My Savior ...)

CLOSE