

# Set Joy Before You

## LESSON 5 – OUTLINE

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1. Most people don't value the things of God properly.
  - A. When we begin valuing the opinions and experiences of others more than what God says in His Word and what He's done in our lives, we turn insensitive.
  - B. The blessing, benefit, and joy from what God has done in our lives starts wearing off when we quit placing the proper value on it.
2. Not only do you need to put a positive value on what God has said and done in your life, but you also need to devalue anything else that comes against you.
  - A. It's a two-edged sword.
  - B. Just like Jesus despised the shame of the cross and kept joy in front of Himself, you need to disesteem your situation and keep joy in front of yourself.
3. If you ever do anything that amounts to anything, if you ever touch someone else's life, if you ever succeed in any endeavor, there will be problems between you and that success.
  - A. The person who succeeds is the one who can look past those problems, hurts, and pains and actually glorify, magnify, and esteem the solution.
  - B. They can see beyond the cost and value the answer above it.
4. Your thoughts either magnify or shrink everything.
  - A. It's not what happens to you that's important, but how you perceive and process it.
  - B. When you magnify negative things, they become insurmountable.
  - C. But you can also take huge things and disesteem or shrink them.
  - D. If Jesus could take the cross and the shame associated with it and disesteem it, then you can despise and reduce anything that comes against you to nothing (Heb. 12:2).
5. If you put the proper value and worth on God and spiritual things, nothing in this life can compare.

I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

PSALM 34:1

- A. You can disesteem and devalue anything in this life so that nothing can bother you or steal your joy.
  - B. Most of what we worry about is so insignificant.
  - C. The reason things are so big to us is because God is so small.
  - D. If you would exalt, magnify, and value the Lord properly, He would become so big to you that all this other stuff wouldn't even matter.
  - E. Once you get that attitude, you'll find that everything else in the natural will work better for you.
6. Jesus set this joy before Himself, and that allowed Him to endure the cross.
- A. If you aren't enduring, it's probably because you don't have any joy set before you that you're focusing on.
  - B. You can get so close to your problem that you can't see anything else, and you think the whole world is falling apart because of it.
  - C. You need to focus on something other than what's going on right now.
  - D. Lift up your eyes and look somewhere other than just down at your feet and what's going on.
  - E. Jesus overlooked His problem, which is what enabled Him to endure it.
  - F. He disesteemed the shame and focused on the joy—and you can too!

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## LESSON 5 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS



1. According to Romans 1:21, put the four progressive steps in their biblical order of how people walk away from a revelation of God's existence, His hatred for sin, and how we're accountable to Him:
  - A. "Became vain in their imaginations."
  - B. "They glorified him not as God."
  - C. "Their foolish heart was darkened."
  - D. "Neither were thankful."
2. According to Hebrews 12:2, what did Jesus focus His attention on?
3. What did He despise?
4. Where is He now?
5. According to Psalm 34:1, when should we bless the Lord?
6. When should His praise be in our mouths?
7. Is there any situation, scenario, or circumstance where we can't praise and bless the Lord?

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## LESSON 5 – SCRIPTURES



Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

ROMANS 1:21

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

HEBREWS 12:2

I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

PSALM 34:1