

Title: **"Yet I Will Rejoice": Defiant Joy in Devastating Times**
Text: **Habakkuk 3:17-19**
Date: **November 6, 2022**

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Big Idea

Habakkuk is a book about joy. God wants you and I to have an incorruptible, untouchable, everlasting joy regardless of whatever earthly circumstances we may be facing. And here, in these closing verses, he is showing us how to get it!

1. The Context of It

No figs, no grapes, no olives, no grain, no sheep, no goats, no cattle. In an agrarian society these are the markers of health and flourishing . . . and they're all gone. Some scholars have noted a certain movement and escalating severity in the descriptions here. Habakkuk begins with the things of luxury and moves towards the things of utter necessity. But all of it is gone.

2. The Surprise of It

Because there's no fig or grape or olive or grain or sheep or goat or cow, therefore I will . . . what? . . . grumble, complain, throw a tantrum, cry, give up hope, shake at my fist at God, curse him? Something like that would fit just fine. But "rejoice" (v. 18)?! That's quite surprising, isn't it? So how are we going to make sense of this?

- Option #1: Psychosis
- Option #2: Denial
- Option #3: Brute Obedience
- Option #4: The Real Thing

3. The Source of It

Statement #1: "I Will Rejoice in the Lord"

If you want an incorruptible joy you must attach your joy to an incorruptible object.

Statement #2: "I Will Take Joy in the God of My Salvation"

Christian joy is not so much detached from circumstance as much as it is attached to the right circumstance. It's not that we're uprooted from all circumstance in some sort of Stoic or Buddhist way. It's that we're rooted in the one, heavenly, eternal circumstance that we have in God. This is the circumstance here referred to as "my salvation" (v. 18). It's the circumstance that is so secure in God that it subordinates and reinterprets and recontextualizes all the others. Habakkuk says: "It doesn't matter to me what comes now because God will win in the end. He'll save me. It will all have been for my ultimate good."

The reason yours and my joy is so fragile, so anemic, so up-and-down is because we attach it to fragile, anemic, up-and-down things. But if we, on the other hand, attach our joy to God, to Jesus, no one—not Pharaoh, not Babylon, not even the Devil himself—can touch it. "I will take joy in the God of my salvation" (v. 18). And, therefore, no one can take that joy from me.

4. The Effect of It

When our joy is tethered to God and his great salvation instead of the stuff of this world, there are four effects that will follow:

- Effect #1: We're Made Strong
- Effect #2: We're Made Stable
- Effect #3: We Can See
- Effect #4: We Can Sing

Reflection Questions

- What's your Hab. 3:17 struggle? Fill in the blanks for yourself. What are you facing that makes it hard to have joy?
- Have you ever felt tempted to do the Christian "plastic" joy thing—where you "fake it until you make it?" Why do you think Christians often feel they must hide the fact that they aren't experiencing joy? Is there a better alternative?
- Go home and read Rom. 8:31-39. Do you really believe this? What would change about your life (and your joy!) if you did? Get specific. Get practical.
- Of the four effects listed above, which do you most need now would you say and why?

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Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.

FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate relationship with him. This value presses our church *upwards* in love

COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. This value presses our church *inwards* in love for

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our church *outwards* in love for the

the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal relationship with his people. This value presses our one another.

Back to City | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.

Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

All Church Hangout - Today!

Meaningful community is hard to find in Silicon Valley, even in the church. Our congregation is spread out all over the city. But there is one day of every week when we all commit to gather together and worship our God: Sunday. It seems strategic to take this pre-existing momentum and work with it in an attempt to develop deeper community within our body. Therefore, on occasional Sundays throughout the year we will invite the church to enjoy picnic-style afternoons together immediately following the service.

The Plan: After service, bring or buy your lunch and join us at the tables out back for a picnic-style afternoon.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

Mercy Hill Youth Hangout and Service Project!

All Mercy Hill Youth (6th thru 12th grade) are invited for a hangout after service next Sunday (11/13) at 12:30pm! We'll have time for fellowship, prayer, and getting in God's Word. We'll meet up at the picnic tables in the pavilion around the back of Allen at Steinbeck Elementary.

Also, the following Saturday (11/19) from 1:00-4:00pm, we'll be going together to volunteer at Sacred Heart Community Services in the afternoon to help put together food boxes for families in need. Please make sure to sign-up online. Students under 18 will also need to bring a signed permission slip.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at youth@mercyhillchurch.org.

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