



Message Reflections

February 13, 2022

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2

"For the joy set before him he endured the cross." Jesus endured the cross for you because you are His joy! Let that sink in. He joyfully gave up everything, and He calls us to follow Him in the same way. When we joyfully give out of the overflow of what He has given us, and we surrender our own wants and desires, the world takes notice.

- How does joyful generosity reveal the love and presence of Jesus?
- What message does a "selfish Christian" send?

Jesus' life and message call His followers to live sacrificially and unburdened by possessions and the things of this world. He asks us to continually check our hearts and our motivation in how we invest our resources, both time and money. (See Luke 12:13-21 and Matthew 6:24.)

- Ask yourself, what do I really love? Where do I invest my time and material resources?

As you move into this week, take notice of the many blessings and gifts God has given you. He delights when we enjoy His good gifts. Allow Him to work in your heart to show you ways you could bless others out of the abundance He has given you. **What step do you want to take to grow in joyful generosity and show God's love to those who may not yet know Him?**