

THE LIGHT OF JOY

Follow the Star #3

December 19th – 20th | Matt McGill

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be **afraid**. I bring you **good news** that will cause **great joy** for all the people. Today in the town of David a **Savior** has been born to you; he is the **Messiah**, the **Lord**. (Luke 2:8-11)*

HOW NOT TO BE MISERABLE

1. CHOOSE joy.

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.
(Matthew 13:44)

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
(Luke 1:46-47)

Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.
(John 16:22)

However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.
(Luke 10:20)

2. START now.

The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.
(Matthew 13:20-21; See also 2 Corinthians 6)

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. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.
(Hebrews 12:2-3)

3. SHARE with someone.

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.
(Matthew 28:8)

I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.
(Luke 15:7)

Then [the disciples] worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.
(Luke 24:52–53)

Questions about the message? Is God calling you to serve our kids or students? We need more volunteers! No experience needed, just servant-hearted people who love Jesus. We will train you! E-mail Matt at matt.mcgill@newlifepismo.com