

“When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her.” – Luke 1:58

Rejoicing with Others

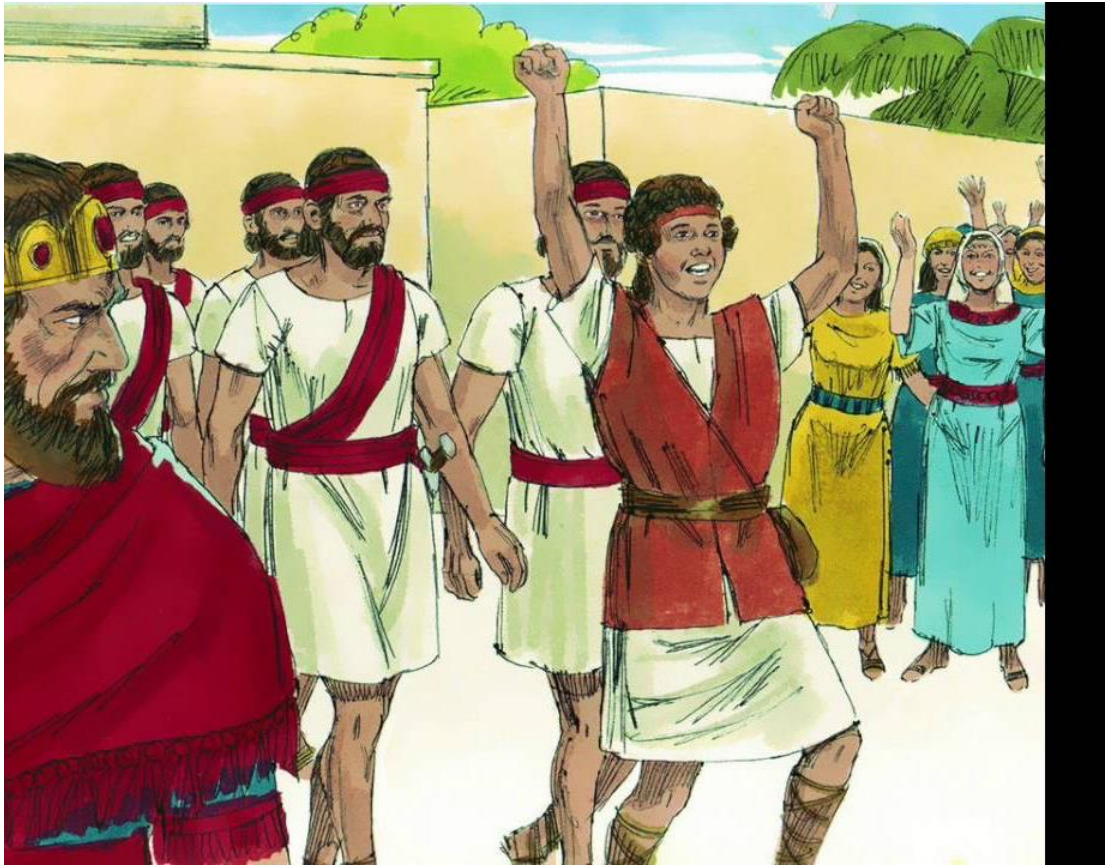
Introduction

- “...weep with those who weep.” (Rom. 12:15)
- “Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Rom. 12:15)
- Discussion
 - Why is it difficult to rejoice with and for others?
 - How can we practice this great virtue?

When is it difficult?



1. If their success seems to come at my expense
 - “My work ought to be recognized”



When is it difficult?

2. Jealousy

- “Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands.” Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?” So Saul eyed David from that day forward.
(1 Sam. 18:7-9)

When is it difficult?

3. Envy

- Def: painful or resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another joined with a desire to possess the same advantage.
- EX: Rachel and Leah
- Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister, and said to Jacob, “Give me children, or else I die!” (Gen. 30:1)



When is it difficult?

4. When another person's joy reminds me of my deficiency



How to rejoice with others?

1. Do not compare

- For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them..." (Rom. 12:3-6)



WHAT WE ARE IS
GOD'S GIFT TO US.
WHAT WE BECOME IS
OUR GIFT TO GOD.

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How to rejoice with
others?

1. Do not compare

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all...” (1 Cor. 12:7)

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Pet. 4:10)

How to rejoice with others?

2. Be content with your portion

- *“Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according to our hope in You, for the eyes of everyone wait upon You, for You give them their food in due season.”*
(Agpeya, 12th hour)

“These all wait for You, That You may give them their food in due season.” (Ps. 104:27)

3. Pray for them

Summary

- Why is it difficult to rejoice with and for others?
 1. If their success seems to come at my expense
 2. Jealousy
 3. Envy
 4. When another person's joy reminds me of my deficiency
- How can we practice this great virtue?
 1. Do not compare
 2. Be content with your portion
 3. Pray for them