

“How Do You Make a Joyful Noise?”—Isaiah 12:3-5

The text for this sermon, the theme of which is, “How Do You Make a Joyful Noise?”, is Isaiah 12:3-5 → *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the peoples, proclaim that His name is exalted. Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.* This is the text.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus:

How do you express joy in your life? Expressions of joy are as varied as the activities which caused them. Let’s look at some examples of ways people express joy in their lives.

- ① Some express joy physically. People watching a sporting event may “jump up and down for joy,” waving their arms, clapping and “high five-ing” each other with shouts of affirmation when their team scores or wins. Could such expression be elicited because of the LORD’s working in your life? Scripture cites the example of a crippled beggar who was healed through the apostle Peter. Acts 3:8 says, *leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and **leaping and praising God**.* I guess experiencing God’s blessings in your life can cause you to “jump

up and down for joy.”

- ② A common way to express joy is by throwing a party. You may throw a party to celebrate significant events taking place in your life such as a birthday, anniversary, job promotion, retirement or a homecoming. Expressing joy with a party was the response of the waiting father when his wayward son repented and returned home a new person. His father told his servants in Luke 15:23-24 → *“Bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.”* And they began to celebrate. He threw a party because the Holy Spirit created repentance and faith in His son. Makes me wonder what *the angels of God* do in their *joy in heaven over one sinner who repents* (cf. Luke 15:7,10).
- ③ A common way to express joy, especially in connection with weddings, is by dancing. Could dancing possibly be a way of expressing joy while worshiping Yahweh? After He delivered His people by bringing them safely through the Red Sea, *Miriam . . . took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. And Miriam sang to them: “Sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.”* (cf. Exodus 15:20-21) Again,

experiencing God's blessings in your life could cause you to dance in joy and celebration before Him.

- ④ Verse 5 of our text says: *Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done gloriously.* People also express joy by singing and/or playing various kinds of musical instruments. This is supposed to be the motivation behind our celebrations of Christmas with special cantatas, Christmas caroling and concerts, many times utilizing all kinds of instrumentation. We are commanded by God in Psalm 98:4-6 to *make a joyful noise to the LORD . . . break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre . . . and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!* Other psalms talk about using cymbals, pipes, tambourines and all kinds of instruments to praise the LORD.

No matter what the style of expressing joy they all have one thing in common—**they are an expression of experiencing a “blessing” of some kind in your life which causes you to be thankful with the desire to include others in your celebration.** Verses 4 & 5 of our text actually commands you to include others in your joy: *make known His deeds among the peoples, proclaim that His name is exalted . . . let this be made known in all the earth.*

Isaiah chapter 12 calls forth celebration, giving thanks and singing praises to Yahweh by His people because of something great that He was going to do in their lives which would bring them great *joy*. He promised them in verse 3 of our text: *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation*. It is a picture of experiencing His salvation perpetually—eternally, beyond the many times God saves you temporally throughout your life.

In their present context it had to do with experiencing the LORD's disciplinary actions because of the Israel's sin and breaking relationship with Him in their rebellion. After a period of exile and captivity Yahweh would deliver them and restore relationship with them in His grace, mercy and forgiveness because of His steadfast love for them.

However, this promised deliverance looked far beyond the physical deliverance of God's people from slavery to another nation. It looked forward to *that day* when God would bring about His ultimate salvation from slavery to sin through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross. His sacrifice would atone for all sins, for all people, for all time. Consistent with the picture in our text, *the wells of this salvation* will never "dry up" so His forgiveness and salvation will always be available to repentant sinners.

The never-ending nature of this joy is that to which Jesus referred many times in His earthly ministry. Jesus said, *Blessed are those who*

*hunger and **thirst for righteousness**, for they shall **be satisfied*** (cf. Matthew 5:6). You *thirst for righteousness* when you seek the LORD in repentance to make your sinful life right and are *satisfied* when you receive His forgiveness with the burden of your sin lifted forever. This is what Jesus meant when He said to the woman at a well, from whom He had requested a drink of water, in John 4:13-14 → *Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water that I will give him **will never be thirsty again**. The water that I will give him will become in him **a spring of water welling up to eternal life**.*

He's referring to God's never-ending forgiveness in the satisfactory life and death of Jesus, the expression of God's never-ending love for us sinners, which will create a never-ending joy in praise and thanksgiving. Once Jesus said, *If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, "Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."* (cf. John 7:37-38) In the midst of guilt over your sins, the Holy Spirit creates a "thirst" for forgiveness which comes only by believing in (i.e. drinking) Jesus.

Not only is the result of such joy praise and thanksgiving, but you will make some other "noise" as well. You will make a joyful noise by letting everyone know about this great gift of salvation from God. According to verses 4-5 of our text, notice **you will say in that day**. You will tell others *to give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name, make known His deeds*

among the peoples, proclaim that His name is exalted. You will tell others to sing praises to the LORD, for He has done gloriously so it can be made known in all the earth. It is an invite for all people to join in the joy and celebration and confess: Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation (cf. Isaiah 12:2).

Praising God with joy, celebration, thanksgiving and singing is celebrating **what God has done for us in His love** as well as praying for the completion of His saving work in our lives. We recognize that the celebration will find its complete fulfillment *in that day* (i.e. on the Last Day) when we enter into the joy of His salvation eternally. As we wait for the coming of *that day*, what kind of noise do you make? The noise of grumbling and complaining, of contempt and self-righteous judgments, of ill temper, division and strife and a lot of other noise of sin? May it never be! Rather, we *make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation* (cf. Psalm 95:1), worshiping and proclaiming salvation in Jesus Christ alone. Amen.

Jesus says: *These things I have spoken to you,
that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

(John 15:11)

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