

Today's Message: "Rejoicing in the Ruins"

⁷ How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" ⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. ⁹ Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. (Isaiah 52:7-9, NIV)

How the Lord got my attention

How I have responded to the wake-up call

- I. Renew my passion to share the gospel. Isaiah 52:7
 - A. The Greek word for "gospel" is *euangelion*. Literally "good news." It is the "sum total of saving truth about Jesus as it is communicated to lost humanity."
 - B. We don't change the world in church, we change the world where our feet walk out of the church.
- II. Remind my brothers and sisters. Isaiah 52:7b
 - A. "Say to Zion" – What is Zion?
 - B. We declare to the people of Zion that your God reigns!

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III. Rejoice in the ruins. Isaiah 52:9

- A. It is not too difficult to give thanks, praise and glory to God when things are going well.
- B. What if parts of our life are in ruins?
- C. When we rejoice in the ruins of our lives, we are acting by faith.

After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise Him for the splendor of His holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying:

*“Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever.”
2 Chronicles 20:21*

Conclusion: Rejoicing, praising and giving thanks is simply the recognition that our loving Father is ruling by His grace in our lives. For that promise we should continually rejoice!

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Small Group Questions:

1. Can you share a time in the past year where you have had an opportunity to open the gospel, the good news, to another person? How did you feel about that?
2. Share about one time in the last couple of months when you have specifically encouraged another brother or sister with the promise of God's faithfulness in the midst of a trial they were facing. How did that affect your life?
3. Are you willing to share one area of your life that seems to be “in ruins”? If not with your group, then perhaps with an individual.
4. What will it take for you to begin to “burst into song” and rejoice in the ruins of your life in that area? What can you expect as a result?
5. Think of one person with whom you can share something from this message that ministered to you and make a commitment to do so. Just by sharing you will multiply the blessing in your own life.

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