



Don't Let the Grinch Steal Your Christmas

Grinch of Sorrow Gift of Joy

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Dave Michel

Stepping Stones Community Church

1. Holiday season sorrow

- Sad past events are amplified
- Everyone seems happier than me
- Financial burden of the holidays

¹⁶ Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance.

¹⁷ Herod's brutal action fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ "A cry was heard in Ramah - weeping and great mourning. Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be comforted, for they are dead."

Matthew 2:16-18 NLT

2. Christmas joy

- Gift of Jesus
- Choose the right attitude
- Celebrate the small things

³⁹ A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town ⁴⁰ where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. ⁴³ Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? ⁴⁴ When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said." ⁴⁶ Mary responded, "Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. ⁴⁷ How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! ⁴⁸ For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. **Luke 1:39-48 NLT**

Next Steps:

- Decide to find joy this Christmas season
- Commit to let go of the sorrowful things of Christmas (_____) and put my focus on the wonderful gift of Jesus
- Celebrate something every day this week
- Attend the rest of the "Grinch" series (or watch on our Youtube channel)
- _____