

- Greetings in the name of the Almighty God who continues to pour out blessing upon blessing,
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SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 118:24 (NIV) – Larger reading: Psalm 118:1-29

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

STORY:

Author Leo Buscaglia tells this story about his mother and their "misery dinner." It was the night after his father came home and said it looked as if he would have to go into bankruptcy because his partner had absconded with their firm's funds. His mother went out and sold some jewelry to buy food for a sumptuous feast. Other members of the family scolded her for it. But she told them that "the time for joy is now, when we need it most, not next week." Her courageous act rallied the family.

OBSERVATION:

The time to rejoice is now. Yes, right in the middle of this Pandemic, as the Covid-19 surges on the horizon. The moment for celebration is in the present. The day has arrived for joy. Not when everything is going great; not when the water of our life is calm; not when we are in perfect health; not when we have a good income; not when the children are behaving; not when things appear to be perfect ... but now ... regardless of the outward circumstances ... rejoice!

Pull out the fine linen. Set the table with the finest china and crystal in the house. Use a real tablecloth and cloth napkins. Use the silver. Cook the best dinner possible. Invite friends and family to share in the celebration. Rejoice!

God has created each day as special. It is a gift. Embrace it. Join Snoopy of Peanuts fame in the dance. Put on that happy face because God is affirming the life that we have. We are alive ... so life with rejoicing and with a glad heart. We have today ... Hallelujah.

It does not matter if our team won or lost. It does not matter if our candidate is ahead in the polls. It does not matter if we are struggling with finding a job. It does not matter if the doctor's diagnose is grim. It does not really matter what we individually might be facing ... God is still in charge so rejoice! Why? Because when there are things that are going "bump in the night" is the best time to rejoice. That is the exact time for discovering the joy that God offers.

When we rejoice it changes our attitude. Our perspective changes. Our attitude reaches new heights. Our spirits are lifted. So today IS the day that the Lord has made ... he makes every day ... fills them with precious minutes and seconds ... so rejoice and be glad in it.

Go find an old grumpy frog and kiss them on the lips!

QUOTE:

“We might not be the ones to change the world. We might not belong to the few that “put a ding in the universe.” We might not be something the whole world would celebrate. But...In the little corners that we live; in the lives that we’ve played a part in, we should be nothing but unforgettable.” – Nesta Jojoe Erskine

PRAYER:

May your joy be found in us and may it become contagious!

And the faith journey continues, Pastor Jim

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As someone has said, “If you want to walk on the water, get out of the boat.” Sunday’s sermon is: “Get Your Feet Wet”
