***Luke 10:20-21 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” 21In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.***

We’re with Jesus this morning heading toward Bethany as He receives back the 70 disciples that He sent out starting in verse 1 of Luke 10. The 70 (or some texts say 72) went out and now they are returning. If we were looking at those earlier verses, we’d surely see that they are returning with Praise, with Joy, at all God has done – Even demons are subject to us in Your name! My friends, we owe it to our Lord and Savior to always return with praise on our lips, looking not only to praise Almighty God for all He’s done, but to do so in a way that is uplifting and encouraging to our brothers and sisters. Too much Christian conversation is centered around the problems and not enough speaks of the Power of our God. Philippians 4:4 instructs us - *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!* It doesn’t say rejoice sometimes, when bones don’t ache, bills are paid, and everything is going according to my earthly plan… No, it says Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS. Be full of cheer. I know those around Jesus were so encouraged, so uplifted, so ready to continue in the Gospel because they heard the 70 return full of cheer, singing God’s praise, and telling of His excellent greatness. It encouraged people then… and it encourages us today.

Verse 20 starts - *Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you*. Jesus now cautions us… do not cheer about the power over spirits, over untruthful and idolatrous things. This may lead to pride, believing that salvation is of us in some way. Cheering over things seen may lead us to worship the seen rather than the unseen. When someone comes to Christ, we are blessed to be tools used by God. We may do the witnessing, but make no mistake, Salvation is by One name only. As Acts 4 tells us – that name is Jesus. Ephesians 2:8-9 says - *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.* We are abundantly blessed to be called workmen in the Kingdom of God.

Verse 20 ends - *But rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven****.*** Jesus just told us what not to cheer over. Now, He tells us what **to** cheer over. He says - But rather, rejoice because your names are written in heaven. Rejoice because of the heavenly things and not the earthly things. Rejoice in reverence that God has allowed us to be His tools in spreading the Gospel, rejoice in that which was lost is now found. Rejoice more when we receive a new brother or sister in Christ, than when some earthly goal is achieved. The power of the Gospel changes things, not because of what we’ve done or who we are, but because of Who He Is and what He’s done. We dare not boast, but in all things give God the praise and the glory.

Verse 21 starts *In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit****.*** There’s that English word again – Rejoice… only, this is not the same word in Greek as before. The earlier word meant – full of cheer. This word means exceedingly glad, exultant, it has the idea of leaping with Joy. It is the only place in the Bible that says – Jesus rejoiced. We need to take notice. He is rejoicing in the Spirit. Why is He rejoicing?

Verse 21 answers that for us - *and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.*Jesus now praises God. The power of the Gospel is spreading. God hides things from those that trust in earthly wisdom. God can only be found when we surrender in Spirit. 1 Corinthians 1:18 tells us *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.* His disciples believed in Jesus Name, preached in His Name, and Salvation has come. It is God’s good pleasure to exercise His power through those who will come to Him as little children, babes. Have you come to Him as a babe? Philippians 2:13 says *for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure*. The hidden becomes apparent. It’s not the wise and the prudent, the learned of society being used, but the humble, the contrite, the repentant of spirit that God is using for His good pleasure.

God still works through us for His good pleasure. We must become as little children to receive the wisdom of God. Have we done that? Then rejoice, not in the temporal, dying things of this world that will have no meaning in 100 years, if not sooner, but that our names are written in the Book of Life, along side the names of brothers and sisters we’ve helped point to the Lord. Let us rejoice as our Savior rejoiced, when the message of the Cross is being revealed to a lost and hurting world and someone eagerly receives Salvation.

Have you believed?