



Rejoice

We all are very interested to rejoice or to have a great joy with friends and relatives. Especially in this holiday season we love to enjoy with others by sharing presents & sweets, eating together and exploring different tourist attractions while we are relaxing from the work and the tight school schedule of our children. It is also a good time of the year to check whether God rejoices in me for creating me in this world or He is deeply saddened and grieved by the way we live as He did in the time of Noah **“The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled”** (Genesis 6:5-6).

If God gives everything we asked for we will rejoice in the Lord. Similarly if God is doing everything we requested for we will rejoice in the Lord. In all these things we will rejoice in the Lord but does the Lord rejoice in me? It is a good question. Very often we ignore it. We don't care whether God rejoices in me or not. All we care about is I am rejoicing in the Lord because I am getting everything from God. Similarly if God is rejoicing in me means God is receiving something from us. Am I making God happy? What are we giving to God to make Him rejoice in us? Are we satisfied with "I am rejoicing in God and that is good enough"? Are our attitude, thinking, words and actions making God rejoicing in us? A very difficult question. We may say "I help in the church, I give my time and money, I pray, I fast, I lead a church group which has large number of worshippers, I write an article about you God every month, I am very intelligent, we can provide a long list of other items as the Pharisee prayed in Luke 18:12 (**I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get**) and we can thank God as the Pharisee did **"God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers or**

St : Josephs Parish
582 Hopes St Mountain View CA 94041

**Tamil Mass will be celebrated every
second Saturday at 6.45 PM**

www.tamilcatholic.org



even like this tax collector” (Luke 18:11). Did God rejoice in the Pharisee? No.

The Pharisee did many things and lived a life which is far better than us, still God was not rejoiced in him. Is God rejoicing in me by seeing my life? Am I living a Holy Life in the eyes of God? Or at least am I trying to live holy by fixing my shortcomings and living as an example for others? Or are we covering up our shortcomings in the eyes of men and moving on because we care about only large crowd and very attractive celebrations? These are some difficult questions to test ourselves to see whether God really rejoices in me.

In my experience, many times I felt that we are very satisfied “Rejoicing in men” than “Rejoicing in God” as our worships and celebrations are aimed to attract more people than nourishing or chiseling them to live a Holy Life. If our aim of life is to rejoice in men and to please men let’s be very careful Jesus will call us “False Prophets” as we read **“Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets”** (Luke 6:26).

We can read from the same chapter that we should “Rejoice” when people insult us because we are blessed **“Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets”** (Luke 6:22-23).

UpComing Events

NewYear Tamil Mass : Dec 31st 2016 @ 7.00 PM

Pongal Mass : Jan 14th 2017 @ 6:45 PM

**Location : St. Joseph 's Church
Mountain View , CA 94041.**

From above two paragraphs we read about two kinds of prophets. One is false prophet who rejoices in men, pleasing men and all the people speak well of them and the other is a good prophet whom God rejoices and well pleased but hated and rejected by men as evil. So if our attitude is to rejoice in men or doing everything to get name and fame from men then God cannot rejoice in us.

It was the reason Jesus was born in a manger (not even in an ordinary house) without expecting any glory from the men and it was the reason the birth of the Jesus was first told to the Shepherds not to the great kings, rulers, other intelligent, spiritual people or bible scholars. Only the Shepherds spread the word about Jesus' birth (or the good news that will cause great joy for all the people according to the Angel) as we read in the bible **"When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed**

at what the shepherds said to them" (Luke 2:17-18). If Jesus wished He could have born in a golden palace and instead of Shepherds spreading the message He could have communicated with the help of Kings. But Jesus set an example for us to follow.

While we "Rejoice" and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ let us don't forget to keep His simplicity in our lives and I am sure God will rejoice in us by seeing our life. Instead of doing all sort of outside decorations to show off ourselves and to attract more people, our life will set a good example for others to follow and God will rejoice in us many more times.

Wish you all Merry Christmas and a Holy New Year

- Leenus Rich



The poster features a blue background with a silhouette of a person with arms raised in prayer. In the center is a circular logo with a cross and flames, containing the text 'BATCC' and 'பயிற்சி மற்றும் இயற்கை இயக்கம்'. To the right, the text 'New Year's Eve Service' is written in a white cursive font, followed by '2017' and 'புத்தாண்டு சிறப்பு திருப்பலி' in white block letters. In the bottom left corner, the date and time 'DEC 31 7.00PM' are displayed in white.



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