

## Are You the Grinch Series Part 3 – Robbing Yourself of Joy

Matthew 2:1-13

### Summary

We live in a world that is self-absorbed and focused upon individualism. We are guilty of selfishness on a daily basis and few people are turning from their self-absorbed ways which leads them down the path of joylessness, despair, and darkness. Yet even in the midst of such darkness there is cry from the manger, a voice that is heard by all and rejected by many. Yet the few that heed the cry are forever changed and forever filled with an inexpressible joy and a light that cannot be extinguished. Sound like something that you would want then find out more as we listen to the cry from the manger this Christmas Season!

### Four Warning Signs that You are Being Robbed of Joy

#### Warning Sign #1 – You Become Self-Absorbed

- **Key Point** – The key point here comes to us by reflecting upon and comparing the pursuit of Jesus Christ by the Wise Men and by Herod. It is here where we will see that people pursue Jesus Christ for many different reasons and we are faced with the critical question: Why am I pursuing Christ? Am I being more like Herod or the Wise Men? Herod was self-centered and self-absorbed, thinking only of himself and only saw Christ as a threat to his self-centered lifestyle. You will be robbed of your joy when your world starts to become more about you and less about the Savior.
- **1 Peter 2:24-25** – He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**The Cry from the Manger – I Came to Die so that You Could Live**

#### Warning Sign #2 – You Harden Your Heart

- **Key Point** – The key point here reminds us that we have been chosen to live a life that makes a difference in this world not for us but for the glory of God. The fact is simple: we must think more highly of serving God than serving our own human nature. We are robbed of joy the moment that we harden our hearts and live for our own welfare over the glory of God!
- **1 Peter 2:9-10** – But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
- **Mt. 22:37-38** – Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment.

**The Cry from the Manger – I Died to Serve...  
So that You Could Live to Serve**

### Warning Sign #3 – You Stop Loving

- **Key Point** – The key point here reminds us that the greatest purpose for living in this world is to live to Love. We are commanded to Love God and Love One Another. We are robbed of joy when we choose to stop loving God and others with our heart, mind, and by the very nature of the way we live our lives
- **Zephaniah 3:17** – The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.

**The Cry from the Manger – I First Loved You  
So You Would Love the World**

### Warning Sign #4 – You Stop Caring

- **Key Point** – The key point here is straight forward and simple to understand. We cannot live for God without loving and caring for those around us that are in need of His love, salvation, and provision. You will know that joy will always be elusive from your life when you stop caring about others and are simply focused upon yourself.
- **Psalm 32:1-5** – Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"—and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**The Cry from the Manger – My Blood Ran  
So You Could Be Washed White as Snow**

### Questions to Consider

1. What is robbing you of your joy this Christmas?
2. How will the Light of the World be exhibited through you this Christmas?

### Memory Verse

**Leviticus 19:2b** – Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.

### Challenge

This holiday season choose one family or individual in need to minister to through love, kindness, and service. Enlarge your heart and enlarge your mission.



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