

Advent 2020 – JOY

Micah 7.7-9

Kansas – Creighton game – fouled on 3-pointer, but missed the last FT (joy turned to shame)

Joy to Shame

- The course of the Enemy (v.8, 10)
 - Heaven – cast out
 - Glorious One – Prince of Darkness, “Crawl on belly”
 - Colossians 2.15
- The story of Christmas
 - Mary and pregnancy (Joseph divorce)
 - Bethlehem and the Inn
 - Birth and manger
 - Wonder and shepherds
 - Heaven to earth

Shame to Joy

- Describing our situation as darkness
 - Make sure no one knows -> further hiding
 - Sometimes our hiding comes out as celebrating someone else’s struggle – if that’s you, do you know who you sound like?
 - No joy in the darkness but there is God (Ps 30)
 - Medicate because we want relief but God is offering rescue
- Diagnosing our situation
 - We have sinned against God
 - It does not matter what I think or feel about the rules
 - It does not matter what I think or feel about God
 - It does not matter what I think or feel about my performance (am I guilty?)
 - TRAFFIC STOP
 - His response is indignation – and He is right to be so
 - Our best response is confession
 - Think there’s no joy in confession? Psalm 32
- Inhaling grace, exhaling joy
 - The confession we make is not the source of our joy – the light under the door and the door are not mistaken for one another
 - He pleads my cause – that is the source of joy – the very One who has been sinned against becomes my advocate (1 John 2)
 - Not words only – judgment executed for me even though I deserved judgment executed on me

- Justice for the sinner?
 - We pay the penalty ourselves
 - God sweeps it under the rug – but no justice in this
 - God absorbs my guilt – paying for it and remaining just
- Not just a pardon but an adoption Gal 4.4-5

This is only possible through Jesus – who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and despised its shame (Heb 12)