

Devotional—Tour Week 5

"The Joy"

Week 5 – the half way point of the tour. You've officially been on the road for 33 days with 32 days left. This would probably be a good time to review some of the devotionals from boot camp to keep your connection with the performances fresh...

"*Godspell* brings life and beauty to some powerful ideas: Live, don't merely survive. Love yourself and love your neighbors, friends and enemies alike. And be **joyful**--above all things, be **joyful!**"

"...Finally, I turned toward the Gospels and sat one afternoon and read the whole thing through. Afterwards, I became terribly excited because I found what I wanted to portray on stage—**Joy!** I found a great **joy**, a simplicity—some rather comforting words..."

"*GODSPELL* as conceived by John-Michael Tebelak is a **jubilant celebration** of the Gospel as told my St. Matthew. It is a religious experience to be felt **joyously**. It is a release of one's spirit into the larger heart of mankind. In brief, it is the belief of John-Michael and his generation that the passion of Jesus Christ was to teach love and **joy** in the hearts of people rather than hate and sadness."

"The festival, the special time when ordinary chores are set aside while man celebrates some event, affirms the sheer goodness of what is, or observes the memory of a god or hero, is distinctly human activity. It arises from man's peculiar power to incorporate into his own life the **joys** of other people and the experience of previous generations. Porpoises and chimpanzees may play. Only man celebrates. Festivity is a human form of play through which man appropriates an extended area of life, included the past, into his own experience."

Deuteronomy 28:45-48

46 These curses will be a sign and a wonder against you and your descendants forever.**47** Because you didn't serve the Lord your God with **joy** and a cheerful heart, even though [you had] an abundance of everything,**48** you will serve your enemies the Lord will send against you, in famine, thirst, nakedness, and a lack of everything. He will place an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you.

Psalms 51:10-13

10 God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**11** Do not banish me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me.**12** Restore the **joy** of Your salvation to me, and give me a willing spirit.**13** Then I will teach the rebellious Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

John 15:9-14

9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you. Remain in My love.10 If you keep My commandments you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love.11 "I have spoken these things to you so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.12 This is My commandment: that you love one another just as I have loved you.13 No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends.14 You are My friends if you do what I command you."

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith,
23 gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Time for personal reflection (Tour Week 5):

Long days, a major lack of sleep, a sore body, overwhelming heat, lots of nightly "interviews" by host families...through all this have I truly been able to continually present the "joy" that is *Godspell*? If not, what do I need to do to bring that "joy" into my performance and my daily witness?

Back on Day 2, I was asked to commit to heart a verse of "joy" in order to help me throughout the tour. What was that verse? Have I used it this summer? Do I need to recommit it to my heart? Do I need a new verse?

In what instances have I seen our performances of *Godspell* truly become a jubilant celebration? How did this impact our audiences?

Am I currently practicing the Fruit of the Spirit towards not only our hosts and audience, but my fellow cast and crew members? If not, what do I need to focus working on to make the rest of the tour more fruitful?

Time for personal reflection...

My favorite memories on tour so far.....

...These I will hide in my heart