

Week 33
Celebration

“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.” – Rom. 12:15.

“And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’” – Lk 15:9

Sometimes I think that we have mixed ideas about celebrating. On the one hand we love to invent reasons to have special meals, go out to a restaurant or do something fun. On the other hand we have this idea that “having fun” means that we are not being responsible and serious minded. God tells us to rejoice, to feast, to sing, to dance and live abundantly. When we remember that our life and our blessings all come from God, we can celebrate life in the presence of God. Not in selfish indulgence, but in the joy of being alive, having friends and family, enjoying the blessings of creation and thanking God with a singing heart.

As a family of disciples, we need to keep looking for reasons to celebrate what God is doing in each other’s lives. It’s part of being a family that we celebrate birthdays, graduations, big accomplishments, wonderful news, etc. Sometimes I fear that we have become too self-conscious and private about our lives and hesitate to share the little things that happen. Celebration can be a simple text or email saying, “rejoice with me, I have good news!” or as elaborate as “you are invited to a party...” However we do it, we need to celebrate the life we have in God.

Richard Foster says, *“I am inclined to think that joy is the motor, the thing that keeps everything else going. Without joyous celebration to infuse the other Disciplines, we will sooner or later abandon them. Joy produces energy. Joy makes us strong.”* Perhaps we have also become too preoccupied with getting things done that we fail to notice that **how** we practice life is also a discipline. We can work, read, pray, fast, sing, eat and study with or without joy. Without joy, these tasks take on a burdensome quality, but with joy, there is a lightness, an energetic reminder of the blessing of participating in God’s work in this world.

So whether you are celebrating a particular occurrence in your life or engaging in the everyday, remember to celebrate in everything. If you happen to see someone celebrating, join them!

This Week

- Pay attention to the little things during the week and ask someone to celebrate with you.

Week 33

Aug 15-21

| Sun | <i>What specific action can you do this week related to your growth goals?</i> | | | 15 |
|------------|--|--------|---------|-----------|
| | Love Compels Us (1) | | | |
| Mon | 2Sam 18 | 1Cor 3 | Psa 141 | 16 |
| Tue | 2Sam 19 | 1Cor 4 | Psa 142 | 17 |
| Wed | 2Sam 20,21 | 1Cor 5 | Psa 143 | 18 |
| | Sara Grubb | | | |
| Thr | 2Sam 22 | 1Cor 6 | Psa 144 | 19 |
| | Olivia Senn | | | |
| Fri | 2Sam 23 | 1Cor 7 | Psa 145 | 20 |
| Sat | | | | 21 |