

Pastor Ron Case
3/24/24

“Continual Celebration”

“But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, ‘Great is the LORD!’” (Psalm 40:16)

Purim Celebration

Esther 9:20-28 – ²⁰ “And Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, ²¹ obliging them to keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same, year by year, ²² as the days on which the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and gifts to the poor. ²³ So the Jews accepted what they had started to do, and what Mordecai had written to them. ²⁴ For Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur (that is, cast lots), to crush and to destroy them. ²⁵ But when it came before the king, he gave orders in writing that his evil plan that he had devised against the Jews should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows. ²⁶ Therefore they called these days Purim, after the term Pur. Therefore, because of all that was written in this letter, and of what they had faced in this matter, and of what had happened to them, ²⁷ the Jews firmly obligated themselves and their offspring and all who joined them, that without fail they would keep these two days according to what was written and at the time appointed every year, ²⁸ that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, in every clan, province, and city, and that these days of Purim should never fall into disuse among the Jews, nor should the commemoration of these days cease among their descendants.”

Palm Sunday Celebration

Matthew 21:8-11 – ⁸ “Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, ‘Hosanna

to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, ‘Who is this?’¹¹ And the crowds said, ‘This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.’”

5 days later...

Matthew 27:20-23 –²⁰ “Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.²¹ The governor again said to them, ‘Which of the two do you want me to release for you?’ And they said, ‘Barabbas.’²² Pilate said to them, ‘Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?’ They all said, ‘Let him be crucified!’²³ And he said, ‘Why, what evil has he done?’ But they shouted all the more, ‘Let him be crucified!’”

To guard against becoming a shallow, conditional, unthankful Christian:

(1) Keep the Bigger Picture in View

Romans 8:18 – “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

(2) Cleanse Often

1 Corinthians 5:8 – “Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

(3) Pray for a Restoring of the Joy

Psalms 51:2, 12 –⁽²⁾ “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!...⁽¹²⁾ Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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