

# CELEBRATE CONFESSION OF STEWARDSHIP CHURCH DISCIPLINE JOURNAL Celebration

When we participate in self-reflection, we tend to beat ourselves up for undisciplined discipleship, but we rarely pay attention to our lack of joy or celebration...although it is a crucial part of our spiritual development.

It is amazing how many references there are in the Old and New Testaments to delight, joy, bliss, exultation, merry-making, and rejoicing, and how emphatically these are demanded from the Book of Psalms to the Epistle to the Philippians.”

“When the prophets and disciples and Jesus talked about heaven, the talk was of parties and wine and banquets and weddings.”  
– *Jonathan Storment*

Without a joyful spirit, the Spiritual Disciplines become dull, death-breathing tools in the hands of modern Pharisees.

“Celebration gives us the strength to live in all the other Disciplines. When faithfully pursued, the other Disciplines bring us deliverance from those things that have made our lives miserable for years, which in turn, evokes celebration. Joy is the end result of the Spiritual Disciplines functioning in our lives. -*Richard Foster*

## **PALM SUNDAY**

It’s fitting that we address the discipline of celebration on Palm Sunday. A day on which the triumphant Entry (recorded in all 4 gospels) is remembered all over the world and has been for over 2,000 years.

Shouts of “HOSANNA”- “An expression of adoration, praise or joy”  
“Save, we pray” can be heard by those who line the streets.

This week (holy week/passion week) will understandably take a dark turn leading to up to “Good Friday.” But on Palm Sunday, Jesus is their King and their Messiah.

“Celebration and Jesus” came together LONG before the Triumphant Entry.

Notes:

Celebration is at the heart of the way of Christ. He entered the world on a high note of elation: “I bring you news of great joy which shall come to all people. (Luke 2:10) and He left the world giving His joy to the disciples: “These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” (John 15:11)

## Luke 15

### He saw how they got that way

- Sheep are foolish animals and naturally go astray
- The woman lost the coin because of carelessness
- The son was lost because of his willfulness
- The father did not search for the boy but let him learn his lessons the hard way and discover how good it was to come back home.

### He saw what they could be

- The sheep could be brought back to the flock and bring joy to the shepherd
- The coin could be found and still had value
- The son could return home and lovingly serve his father.
- There is hope for every sinner because Jesus welcomes everyone.

“I suspect that most of us seriously underestimate God’s capacity for joy.” -*John Ortberg*

Regarding the older brother: “Too often, people who are willing to spend their lives slaving for the Lord are those most likely to forget the nature of God. Grace, mercy, goodness, forgiveness. Those can be especially hard for someone who views herself as God’s slave.”  
—Josh Ross

### POINTS TO PONDER AS WE PREPARE TO PART:

How can we better incorporate the discipline of celebration?

### CELEBRATE THE “SMALL THINGS”

It is possible that God says every morning, “Do it again” to the sun; and every evening, “Do it again” to the moon. It may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately but has never got tired of making them. It may be that He has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we.”  
-*G.K. Chesterson*

By celebrating the small things, we can bring joy into our lives.

Notes:

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