

Jesus, the Adult

The Importance of Celebrations

Lesson 3

Introduction

Jesus grew up in the small village of Nazareth in Galilee where His family's faith in God was reflected in every area of life. In addition to teaching Jesus God's Word (Torah) from an early age, they also followed God's appointed feasts and God's instructions to celebrate what He had done in their lives.

Celebrations

1. The very first celebration after the birth of a child was to take place on the eighth day. According to Leviticus 12:1-3, what was to be done for a male child?
2. What was significant about a first-born son? (Exodus 13:1, 2)
3. The Law also required purification sacrifices be made after giving birth. The sacrifices are given in Leviticus 12:6-8. Based upon those requirements and what Mary brought to the Temple, what do you learn about the financial condition of Jesus' family? (Luke 2:22-24)
4. In addition to first-born son Jesus, how many other children did Mary and Joseph have? (Matthew 13:55, 56; Mark 6:3)

Feasts of the Lord

5. In addition to celebrations, God gave His people Israel seven feasts or festivals they were to observe annually. These feasts were a time of family celebration and remembrance of what God had and would do for His people. Of the seven feasts, three stood out from the rest.
 - What were the three festivals? (Exodus 23:14-16)

- What was unique about these three? (Exodus 23:17)
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6. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is the beginning of Passover. The Bible tells us that Jesus' family traveled to Jerusalem each year to celebrate Passover. What was noteworthy about the celebration when Jesus was 12 years of age? (Luke 2:41-45)
 7. Three days later, where was Jesus located? (Luke 2:46)
 8. What was said about Jesus at age 12? (Luke 2:47, 48)

Reflect

9. Jesus appeared surprised that His parents didn't know where He would be after the festival. As you reflect on this story of Jesus, what do you learn about Jesus as a young adult?
10. In addition to the feasts and the celebrations, what else did God's people do to help remind them of God's faithfulness?
 - Genesis 28:10-19
 - Joshua 3:9-13; 4:1-7

11. What were God's instructions regarding these feasts and memorials? (Exodus 13:8, 9)

Putting Feet to the Life of Celebration

How can we celebrate God's faithfulness today? The obvious answer is to remember the New Testament celebrations of Christmas, The Lord's Supper (Communion) and Easter, which we should do. But what about in your life?

- Begin journaling your life story. Just as we have reflected on Jesus' earthly life, what was your family like, who were the people that shaped you spiritually, mentally and physically? These events may be positive or negative, either way; they have shaped us into who we are today.
- From that journal, create a time line; use symbols like a cross when you came to faith in Jesus, a church or school, a job, wedding ring or cradle, for example. Things that can help you visualize your life.

The goal of this exercise:

- To see how God has worked in your life in ways you might not have seen before and to have a story to share of God's faithfulness.
- To see areas where God can bring others alongside to help you as you continue on your journey as a disciple of Jesus.

Standing stones (Memorial markers)

- Place articles throughout your home that will remind you of God's faithfulness through people and events in your life. Each time you look at them, reflect and then pray.

I have rose bushes in my yard that I have given names of family members. Each time I tend them, I thank the Lord for that individual and pray for them.

Whatever you choose, and you may have many things, place them in strategic locations so that others may ask, "What is this about?" And, each time they catch your eye, train yourself to thank the Lord for His faithfulness to you.