



Sermon Discussion Questions

April 29, 2012

Michael Flake -Davidson

Mike Moses - Huntersville

Celebrate: What God Does and Gives

Scripture: Psalm 65

Please note that Sermon Discussion Questions will PAUSE during the summer. They will pause after the May 6 Sermon Questions.

Introduce it: Begin thinking about the sermon

*Leader: here are various questions you can ask to intro this sermon. Pick one or two.

Think back over your life, what would be the top 2-3 things that you celebrate and are amazed that God has done in your life?

What are things that God has done in your life that it's very easy for you to forget about? What are things that God has done in your life that when you remember them, they help you to move faithfully into the promises of God?

How would you define your normal demeanor: one who easily celebrates or one that has a hard time celebrating? Explain.

Revisit it: Look back at the passages taught

Read Psalm 65:1-4

Name all the things this Psalm praises God for in these verses. Part of celebration is taking ourselves out of the picture. What does the Psalmist say that we do in these verses in comparison to what God does?

*Leader: God enables us to fulfill our vows, he answers prayer, he opens the door for us to come to him, he comforts and forgives when we are overwhelmed by sin, he brings us to his temple (we don't come on our own), he calls us to worship.

As you read these verses, what things do they trigger in you to celebrate God?

*Leader: what triggers when we hear about vows God helps us keep, prayers he has answered, things he has forgiven you for, how he enables you to worship.

Read Psalm 65:-5-8

Name all the things this Psalm praises God for in these verses?

*Leader: focus on these verses is God the creator and his mighty power over all the earth. Focus is to recognize the amazing wonders of God's creation and power.

What is the focus in these verses and how is it different than the previous ones? Why is this important to notice for our celebration?

*Leader: the God who created all this around us and controls all of this is intimately interested in us!!!! The God that does all of this, does awesome and righteous deeds for us. Can we recognize this? Celebrate that the God of all creation is intimately interested in blessing you!

What can we learn about celebrating God from creation?

*Leader: all the beauty we see around us is celebrating our God. Allow our creation to teach us how to worship God at dawn and as evening fades.

Read Psalm 65:9-13

Name all the things this Psalm praises God for in these verses?

*Leader: Focus this time is not one what he creates but on how he takes care of that in which he creates.

What is the focus in these verses and how is it different than the previous ones? Why is this important to notice for our celebration?

*Leader: God will provide our every need. Look around and see how he does this for creation and how much more he will do that for us.

Use It: Don't just learn the passage-apply it

John Ortberg makes this comment: "Spiritual practice is intentional, repeated action that waters and fertilizes the seed of grace in your heart." What are spiritual practices that you can put into your life to help you celebrate?

*Leader: practice worship weekly, practice worship daily, read the OT and see how God has remained faithful throughout generations of unfaithful people, stop at the end of each day and make a journal of things you will celebrate that God did that day, get up early and listen to creation singing out to God early in morning, join in that singing by praying celebration early in the morning.

If you are a joy giver, who are joy robbers you can get around to help them learn to celebrate? If you are a joy robber, who are joy givers you need to get around to learn from? How will you do this?

*Beware joy robbers-you must be intentional to learn to have joy or you will steal joy from those that are joy givers. Beware joy givers-joy robbers can steal your joy but you have opportunity to learn to give joy to them but know when they are stealing joy more than you are giving it.

Remember It: Memorize the verse

Memorize Psalm 65:13, "The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing."

Teach this verse to your children. Help your children learn what it means now to be people that celebrate what God has done! Teach them early so as they grow older they are joy givers!