

Living Connections Bible Study

Time to Celebrate



Prayer:

Text: Luke 5:33-39, Matthew 9:14-17, Mark 2:18-22

Icebreaker: Make a list of reasons believers have to celebrate our great salvation.

1. What is Heaven's response when someone is redeemed and becomes a child of God?
Luke 15:7, 10

2. What was Levi *the tax collectors* desire toward his friends when he turned in faith to follow Jesus? Luke 5:27-29

3. What complaint did the Pharisees bring against Jesus because of this feast? Luke 5:30-32

4. What further complaint did the Pharisees and even John's disciples bring against Jesus and His disciples that day and why? Luke 5:33; Mark 2:18; Luke 18:10-12

5. List some reasons for fasting found in the Old Testament.
Leviticus 23:26-32; Joel 2:12-13; 2 Samuel 12:16; Ezra 8:21-23; Judges 20:26-28;
2 Chronicles 20:3; Esther 4:3, 14-16; Jonah 3:5-8

6. What had the Pharisees become guilty of with regard to charity, prayer and fasting? Matthew 6:1-2, 5, 16-18

7. What proper motivations for fasting do we find in Isaiah 58:3-9?

8. What reason did Jesus give for why He and His disciples were feasting instead of fasting on one of the Jewish prescribed fast days? Luke 5:34

9. To what days did Jesus refer when He said His disciples would fast? Luke 5:35; John 16:19-22

10. What wonderful promises did Jesus leave us during the present church age? Matthew 28:19-20; Hebrews 13:5-6

During this Church Age the New Testament does not prescribe any days for fasting. Fasting is purely voluntary. It's right to spend time in secret with our Heavenly Father, interceding for ourselves and for others. It's right to feel godly sorrow when we sin, but we should confess it and go on to rejoice in God's forgiveness and salvation. Because of His resurrection and abiding presence this is a time to rejoice and celebrate what Christ has done for us. *Rejoice in the Lord always; Again I will say rejoice!*^{Philippians 4:4}

11. What was Jesus teaching us in this context by His parable about the two garments?
Luke 5:36

12. What lesson does Jesus illustrate by the parable of the old and new wineskins with regard to our yielding to the work of the Holy Spirit in us?
Luke 5:37-38; Ephesians 5:18; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 2:20

Think about it this week:

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
old things have passed away;
behold, all things have become new.*

2 Corinthians 5:17

Things are different now
Something happened to me
When I gave my life to Jesus
Things are different now
I was changed it must be
When I gave my heart to Him
Things I loved before have passed away
Things I love far more have come to stay
Things are different now
Something happened that day
When I gave my heart to Him