

Daily Devotional

April 15, 2005

(Contributed by David Berry)

Theme: Created for Celebration

Texts: Luke 15:32; Luke 19:39, 40

Thought:

I'm "wired" for celebration...created that way. I can't help it; neither can you. Parents celebrate their children from birth, through childhood, through grandchildren. In a much zanier way, we see adults sit in 30 degree weather watching a football sail through the uprights for a winning score in the last seconds of a game and go absolutely nuts. They are celebrating. Ever celebrate a raise? A promotion? What about a fiftieth anniversary?

The father in the Prodigal Son story told the older son that "we had to celebrate and be glad" because, as you recall, the younger brother had returned home. Had to celebrate, had to be glad.

Jesus told his disciples on the occasion of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem that if they kept the local folk from celebrating his return they would cause the rocks to cry out and rejoice. The image is vivid, isn't it: God's creation will celebrate his wonder, his love, his good gifts? And it's true whether in Jerusalem in the first century or in Visalia in the twenty-first century. We must celebrate!

What do you think about celebrating God, celebrating His presence? Is it natural for you or does it seem like a challenge? The issue is not whether we celebrate but what and Who?

Some thoughts to ponder during the week:

Celebrating the presence of God is a lifestyle, not something I predetermine and plan for a particular day, hour, or at a specified place. For each day this week, record your most impressive God-presence moment of the day. Where were you at the time?

Celebration often involves family and friends. But it's not dependent on others. Record three significant celebratory occasions when you were with family or friends and three memorable God moments when you were alone with your Father.

You are created, "wired" for celebration. Can you sense that? Know it? Think about some times when you unexpectedly, spontaneously laughed, clapped, made some noise, celebrated, and rejoiced in God's presence. Think of other times when the celebration was quieter, more introspective, more soul-searching but none-the-less rejoicing in God's presence