

## Celebrating God When the Holiday is Over

### I. Remember that celebration doesn't have to be high energy.

- es, the major holidays are generally high energy commitments. In addition to whatever you're doing at home, there are likely church programs and extra-curricular activities, picnics, feasts, and the like.
- But worship doesn't have to be singing and decorating and laughing and business. You can — and should — learn how to celebrate God in silence, contemplation, and normalcy.
- We need to know how to correctly celebrate God while singing in church on Easter, but we also need to know how to correctly worship Him while taking a test at school or fixing a set of brakes or performing in a theatrical endeavor or drawing blood or reading a book.

### II. Don't stop doing normal life during the holidays.

- Whether you're at home or in a motel, chores and personal hygiene are vital to staying healthy and comfortable.
- And though it may be acceptable to have a movie marathon over break, that shouldn't be all you do. Don't completely jettison the valuable "mundane" activities that make up an average week.
- "Don't stop normal life" also goes for what you eat. Yes, by all means, enjoy your food, but whether you're eating or drinking, you need to glorify God. There shouldn't be a drastic difference between your vacation and post-vacation food intake. Even if you're eating out, you should be taking care of the temple of God.

### III. Talk about normal life before the vacation or holiday is over.

- In order to continue celebrating God when the holiday is over, you need to make sure you're living elements of "real life" now. You should also discuss post-vacation ideas to help prepare everyone mentally for the end of break.

### IV. Continue the fun into normal life.

- Just because we've returned to "normal life" doesn't mean you and your community should stop hanging out, doing life on life, having special meals, and enjoying each other.
- Of course, don't just do fun for fun's sake. Lord willing, your life-on-life time with your disciples is a time for you to sharpen each other, love each other for Christ, and build each other up. That's the spirit we need to continue.
- We're not encouraging us to worship ourselves with our play during the holidays and then drag that into normal life. No way. But if you and your friends can glorify God in your time together, there's no reason to stop seeing each other just because work has started back up.

### V. Transition with a good attitude.

- You are probably a leader of some kind. Therefore, you're a model, a pace-setter. Do not end break off complaining about work on Monday. You are not allowed to have a bad attitude! Not only does a bad attitude about normal life reveal that you're likely not going to celebrate God very well during that normal life, but it also reveals that you probably weren't celebrating God during the holiday or vacation either!
- Praise God (in front of your disciples) about the blessings of a secure job and a good education. Be proactive, be excited about normal life.
- We need to set the Christ-honoring example for everyone in our lives.

## VI. Remember that the goal of everything we do should be the worship God.

- The historical church got itself into a lot of trouble trying to separate the sacred from the secular. It's actually impossible because we are spiritual beings and everything we do has a sacred impact.
- God created us to be worshippers. Not only is it impossible to *not* be worshipping, but Jesus told us clearly in Matthew 6:24 and Luke 16:13 that we cannot worship two masters simultaneously. We'll either hold to the one and reject the other or vice versa.
- It's actually very easy to transition from celebrating God during a holiday to celebrating Him during normal life if we're *truly* celebrating Him in the first place.
- Consider this word picture.
  - You breath when you run, sing, walk, and sleep. You always breath, and that breathing changes depending on the activity . . . still you don't stop breathing.
  - How hard would it be — and physically dangerous — if you tried to make yourself breath during sleep the same way you breath when you run?
  - How impossible would it be to only breath in church and try to hold your breath the rest of the week?!
  - I think we try to do the same thing with our worship. We've bought the lie that worship is high-energy singing and service and that we're not worshipping if we're not in church or deliberately doing something churchy.
  - But that's spiritually unhealthy.
  - Breath the right way when you swim. Celebrate God the right way when you're at church. Breath the right way when you walk. Celebrate God the right way when you parent. Breath the right way when you read a book. Celebrate God the right way when you read the Bible. Breath the right way when you run. Celebrate God the right way in school or work.
  - When you breath naturally, you smoothly move from activity to activity exercising the necessary muscles to make sure you continue breathing in a healthy way no matter what you're doing.
  - So we too must focus on our celebration so that we naturally and smoothly move from activity to activity exercising the necessary spiritual muscles to continue worshipping in a Christ-honoring way no matter what we're doing.
  - And that's how you celebrate God when the holiday is over.