

Key Scripture:

Mark 13:28 NLT

"Now learn a lesson from the fig tree.

When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, **you know that summer is near.**

Celebrate Good Times

Matthew 22:2-14 LEB

2 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man—a king—who gave a wedding celebration for his son. 3 And he sent his slaves to summon those who had been invited to the wedding celebration, and they did not want to come. 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding celebration!" ' 5 But they paid no attention and went away—this one to his own field, that one to his business. 6 And the others, seizing his slaves, mistreated them and killed them. 7 And the king was angry and sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding celebration is ready, but those who had been invited were not worthy. 9 Therefore, go out to the places where the roads exit the city and invite to the wedding celebration as many people as you find.' 10 And those slaves went out into the roads and gathered everyone whom they found, both evil and good, and the wedding celebration was filled with dinner guests. 11 But when the king came in to see the dinner guests, he saw a man there not dressed in wedding clothes. 12 And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here, not having wedding clothes?' But he could say nothing. 13 Then the king said to the servants, 'Tie him up hand and foot and throw him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!' 14 For many are called but few are chosen."

What keeps people from a good celebration?

✓ **People celebrate for the wrong reasons.**

Luke 12:19 LEB

And I will say to my soul,

"**Soul, you have many possessions stored up** for many years. Relax, eat, drink, celebrate!" '

✓ **People try to celebrate the old way.**

1 Corinthians 5:7b-8 NLT

...Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us

So **let us celebrate the festival, not with the old bread** of wickedness and evil,

but with the new bread of sincerity and truth.

Notes: _____

Summer Essentials

Celebration

✓ **People are not ready.**

Matthew 25:10 LEB

But while they had gone away to buy it the bridegroom arrived, and **those who were ready went inside with him to the wedding celebration,** and the door was shut.

✓ **When only certain people are invited to celebrate.**

Matthew 22:8-10 NLT

8 And he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, **and the guests I invited aren't worthy of the honor.** 9 Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.' 10 So **the servants brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike,** and the banquet hall was filled with guests.

Celebrate God...

1. Celebrate with a bounce in your step.

Luke 1:44 GOD'S WORD

When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb **jumped for joy.**

Galatians 5:25 NIV

Since we live by the Spirit, **let us keep in step with the Spirit.**

Malachi 4:2 CEV

But for you that honor My name, victory will shine like the sun with healing in its rays, and you **will jump around like calves at play.**

2. Celebrate with praise from your heart.

Psalms 28:6-7 NLT

6 Praise the Lord! For He has heard my cry for mercy.

7 The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust Him with all my heart.

He helps me, and **my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.**

3. Celebrate the cleansing power of Jesus!

Titus 3:4-6 TLB

4 But when the time came for the kindness and love of God our Savior to appear, 5 then He saved us-not because we were good enough to be saved but because of His kindness and pity-by **washing away our sins and giving us the new joy** of the indwelling Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us with wonderful fullness-and all because of what Jesus Christ our Savior did

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