



**Moving Beyond Motions : Corporate**  
**Sermon Discussion Questions - February 28, 2021**

**Scripture Passages:**

**Luke 2:10-11 (NLT)** ...”Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!

**John 2:11 (NLT)** This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

**John 15:11 (NLT)** I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

**John 16:24 (NLT)** Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.

**John 17:13 (NLT)** “Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so that you would be filled with my joy.

**Philippians 4:4-6,8 (NLT)** Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.

**(6)** Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done... **(8)** ...fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

**Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)** And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No

power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Warm Up:**

This week's message is on the topic of celebration! When was the last time you truly celebrated? What was the best part of the celebration?

### **Discussion:**

In the beginning of his message, Pastor Tom discusses the emphasis on joy throughout scripture.

Is joy one of the first words you think of when you think about scripture? If not, what do you think of? Why do you think that is?

In his message, Pastor Tom compared the picture of Jesus from the Sistine Chapel to the story of Jesus' first miracle at a wedding party.

How might looking at these two examples help you evaluate how you view Jesus? How does this point to your view of the character of God? How does the idea of celebration fit in with your current view of God?

Pastor Tom described celebration as *remembering and rejoicing in the goodness of God*.

How might this definition compare to the culture's understanding of celebration? How might your understanding of celebration affect how you celebrate? What are a few things currently happening in your journey that may make rejoicing and celebration the last thing you think about?

Excerpt from Pastor Tom:

*I can become so consumed with the problem before me that I forget the deliverance behind me.*

What are some things God has already delivered you from? What current problems may be distracting you from rejoicing in the work God has already done? Are there any daily or weekly rhythms you can add to your life that would help with reminding you of what God has already done?

Excerpt from Richard Foster:

*The decision to set the mind on the higher things of life is an act of the will. That is why celebration is a discipline... It is the result of a consciously chosen way of thinking and living.*

What might it practically look like to live out celebration as a discipline? How might the discipline of celebration make space for fun in your life?

Read Philippians 4:6,8.

What stands out most to you? What might it mean to fix your thoughts on something? Do you find this passage easy or difficult to abide by? Why?

Toward the end of his message, Pastor Tom connects the idea of celebration with surrendering the illusion of control.

What practical steps can you take this week to *surrender the illusion of control over to God*? How might surrendering the illusion of control impact your ability to practice celebration?

### **Next Steps:**

Excerpt from Pastor Tom:

*The very act of celebrating anchors us in a deeper story—one that precedes any current hardship or pain. God’s narrative goes back to the Garden when He formed us from the dust and called us into loving relationship with each other and with Him. It continued when Jesus became flesh and assumed all of our sin and brokenness so that we could enjoy fellowship with the Trinity. It will culminate in, yes, a celebration—the wedding feast of Christ with His bride, the Church.*

Make a short list of current hardships in your life. Take a few minutes to pray, surrendering those over to God.

Think back to some of the ways God has been good to you. What is one way you can celebrate His goodness this week?