



## When God Seems Silent - Week 8 “From Fasting to Feasting”

### From Fasting to Feasting:

#### **Esther 9:20-28 (NIV)**

*Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, <sup>21</sup> to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar <sup>22</sup> as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor.*

*<sup>23</sup> So the Jews agreed to continue the celebration they had begun, doing what Mordecai had written to them. <sup>24</sup> For Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them and had cast the pur (that is, the lot) for their ruin and destruction. <sup>25</sup> But when the plot came to the king’s attention, he issued written orders that the evil scheme Haman had devised against the Jews should come back onto his own head, and that he and his sons should be impaled on poles. <sup>26</sup> (Therefore these days were called Purim, from the word pur.) Because of everything written in this letter and because of what they had seen and what had happened to them, <sup>27</sup> the Jews took it on themselves to establish the custom that they and their descendants and all who join them should without fail observe these two days every year, in the way prescribed and at the time appointed. <sup>28</sup> These days should be remembered and observed in every generation by every family, and in every province and in every city. And these days of Purim should never fail to be celebrated by the Jews—nor should the memory of these days die out among their descendants.*

### **1. Remembering is the forgotten key to spiritual growth.**

- Remembering is a spiritual discipline.

#### **Luke 22:19 (NIV)**

*And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”*

- The greatest enemy of faith may be forgetfulness.

- Remembering stirs our hearts toward greater affection and obedience to Christ.

## **2. Remembering is how we transfer our faith to future generations.**

- The church is always one generation away from extinction.
- If we fail to celebrate our faith, our children will be cynical of theirs.

### **Joshua 4:6-7 (NIV)**

*to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' 7 tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."*

#### **Don't forget to Remember:**

- Speak more about God's faithfulness than your frustration.
- Write down answered prayers.
- Tell your salvation story.
- Celebrate spiritual birthdays.

## **3. Remembering anchors us when our faith is tested.**

- Remembering who God is and what He has done has always positioned God's people best for what is to come.
- When we forget God, we will repeat past sins. Remembering God will help us break the cycle of sin.

### **Hebrews 13:8 (NIV)**

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

- Remembering, even in trials, reminds us of a greater rescue.

### **Luke 22:19 (NIV)**

*And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."*