

Pastor Dave Rohde

For Sunday, June 9th
"Time to Party"

John 1:14 – NIV

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Psalm 8:1-2 – NIV

Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens.

² Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.

Esther 9:2-4, 20-28 – NIV

² The Jews assembled in their cities in all the provinces of King Xerxes to attack those determined to destroy them. No one could stand against them, because the people of all the other nationalities were afraid of them. ³ And all the nobles of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and the king's administrators helped the Jews, because fear of Mordecai had seized them. ⁴ Mordecai was prominent in the palace; his reputation spread throughout the provinces, and he became more and more powerful.

²⁰ Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, ²¹ to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar ²² 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.

²³ So the Jews agreed to continue the celebration they had begun, doing what Mordecai had written to them. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ (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, ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ 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..

Takeaway: Celebrating God's faithfulness is an important part of our journey.

Questions:

1. What was the last party you threw or attended?
2. Purim isn't just celebrating a victory in battle. It celebrates the journey from sadness (sackcloth and ashes, sure death) to joy and freedom (a place among Persia's elite, a party for the Jewish people). Why is it healthy to learn to mourn and celebrate?
3. Reflect on all the banquets and feasts in Esther (1:2-4, 2:18, 5:4-8, 7:1-10, 8:17, 9:17-19). What does each feast celebrate? How are they similar? How are they different?
4. We've been reading through and studying Esther for the last nine weeks. What has it taught you about God? What have you learned about yourself?
5. How does music help you mourn, celebrate and/or worship?

Sermon: <https://podcast.wpcwestlake.org/services/mp3/sermon20240609.mp3>

Service Video: <https://youtu.be/6c0Xa7xhrAo>