

I N T H E S I L E N C E

"GOD IN THE SILENCE" WEEK 6 NOTES **FEBRUARY 12**

KEY THOUGHTS

- All this information on a feast instituted after the Jews were saved. Why?
- Life Lesson #6 from book of Esther: God loves a great celebration!
- Mike Yaconelli – It doesn't take much to make most of us realize that we have become too serious, too tense, too stressful. The result is that we have forgotten how to live life. It seems like the older we get, the more difficult it is for us to enjoy living... It's hard to imagine we were a gleam in someone's eye once. What happened to the gleam in our eye? What happened to that joyful, crazy, spontaneous, fun-loving spirit we once had? The childlikeness in all of us gets snuffed out over the years... The sign that Jesus is in our hearts, the evidence of the truth of the gospel is ... we still have a light on in our souls. We still have a gleam in our eye. We are alive, never boring, always playful, exhibiting in our everydayness the "spunk" of the spirit. The light in our souls is not some pietistic somberness, it is the spontaneous, unpredictable love of life...I believe it's time for the party to begin.
- So, what's the big deal with celebrating? A Theology of the Party
- Celebrating helps connect us to the goodness of God.
- Celebrating should connect us to the "have not".
 - Esther 9:22 - "...that they should make them days of feasting and rejoicing and sending portions of food to one another and gifts to the poor."
- God's wins are worth celebrating!
 - Acts 3:1-8 – we celebrate differently at different times, but good fist-pumping, chest-bumping, enthusiastic shouting certainly should be part of it
- Baptism is one of our modern-day Feasts of Purim!
 - Baptism is not salvific (an instrument of salvation) any more than throwing a party was what saved Israel from destruction in Persia.
 - Opportunity for people to celebrate becoming a part of God's great story of rescue, and how that story has played out in their lives.

SCRIPTURES

- Esther 9:20-28
- Acts 3:1-8

PRACTICAL & REFLECTION

- Are you a good celebrator when it comes to the things God has done, and the things He's done specifically in your own life?
- If Jesus has become your savior and rescuer, have you celebrated through the celebration of baptism? Would you consider?