

TIMES OF CELEBRATION

If It Had Not Been The Lord

I. It would be different had it not been for the Lord

- A. Some stuff **WOULD'VE** happened (2024) that didn't happen because The Lord was on our side-You escaped some stuff and the better shape you're in the more you escaped-**Ps124:2**-*If it had not been the Lord who was on our side when men rose up against us:³Then they (would) had swallowed us up quick...⁴Then the waters (would) had overwhelmed us, the stream (would) had gone over our soul...⁷Our soul is **escaped** (avoid danger)...the snare is broken and we are escaped.⁸Our help is in the name of the Lord..*
- B. If the mercy of God hadn't sustained you, you wouldn't have made it-But it did so you did-**Ps94:17**-*Unless the Lord had been my help my soul had **almost** (soon) dwelt in **silence** (death).¹⁸When I said My foot slips; thy **mercy** (kindness/goodness/faithfulness) O Lord **held** (sustained) me up.*
- C. We weren't consumed, we're not in bad shape because of His mercies-**Lm3:22**-*It is of the Lord's **mercies** that we are not consumed..*
1. The mercy of held them up-It's **WHY** they made to the promised land-**Dt8:14**-*Brought you forth out of the land of Egypt...¹⁵...led you through that terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents...scorpions...drought where there was no water; who brought you forth water out of the rock; ¹⁶Who fed you in the wilderness with manna*
 2. It wasn't that way because The Lord held them up-Daniel-Lions' food, 3 Hebrews-Ash, Mk5 woman-Died, Jairus-Missed seeing is daughter grow up; David's carcass-Food for the fowls and beasts

II. When it's a reality to you that The Lord held you up and had he not held you up you would have been consumed, it inspires gratitude

- A. Gratitude is an expression of appreciation-Expressing to someone that you value what they've done for you
- B. We express gratitude it with words and gifts-**Dt27:2**-*When ye shall pass over Jordan unto the land which the lord thy God gives you.⁷You shalt offer peace offerings*-**Pr3:9**-*Honor the Lord with thy substance (wealth)*
1. Peace offering-Voluntary sacrifice in thanks; For alliance; Enjoying peace because of this alliance and express gratitude with a gift - There are offerings that the sole purpose is to express gratitude
- C. In expressing gratitude there are times when words aren't enough to convey the honor in our heart so to show value we reach for something of value to express value-Not trying to pay for something but expressing gratitude with a gift; What you've done for me is more valuable than this
- D. When the heart is full of gratitude it's natural to reach for something of value to express value-**Ps66:8**-*Bless our God ye people...make the voice of his praise to be heard:⁹holds our soul in life...suffers not our feet to be moved...¹²...brought us out into a wealthy place.¹³I will go into thy house with burnt offerings...pay my vows which my lips have uttered...when I was in trouble...¹⁵I will offer unto you burnt sacrifices of fatlings...bullocks...goats...¹⁶Come and hear...I will declare what he has done for my soul.¹⁷I cried*

unto him with my mouth...he attended to the voice of my prayer.²⁰Blessed be God which has not turned away my prayer nor his mercy from me

- E. This destroys the question, "Do I have to give?"-Nobody is making you-**Lv19:5**-If you offer a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the Lord you shall offer it at your own will
- F. Offerings are part of these celebrations-**Dt16:10**-Keep the feast of weeks unto the Lord...with a tribute of a freewill offering...(voluntary) which you shalt give unto the Lord...according as the Lord thy God has blessed you

III. Had it not been for The Lord offering-Jn12:1-Came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, which had been dead...²...made him a supper...Martha served...Lazarus...sat at the table with him.³...Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, **very costly** (extremely valuable, great price) and anointed the feet of Jesus...wiped his feet with her hair...the house was filled with the odor-**Mk14:3**-House of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat...came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard **very precious** (extremely expensive)...brake the box...poured it on his head.⁴...had indignation within themselves...Why was this waste of the ointment made?⁵...it might have been sold for more than 300 **pence** (denarius), and have been given to the poor...murmured against her.⁶...Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me.⁷...have the poor with you always and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always

- A. Mary's offering-Danari-A day's wage; AVG salary \$60,000; Very costly; Thin white stone box, sturdy enough that you could seal it air tight, fragile enough that you could break it on something-Spices and ointments were like money-Likely imported from India and a family heirloom
- B. What He brought into her life was invaluable to her-Simon isn't a leper, Lazarus isn't dead, eating-**Rm10:15**-How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things
- C. She's endeavoring to convey something to him, to express what's in her heart-She's trying to express how much she values what He had done for her and it's obvious words weren't enough; Her heart was so full of gratitude that she sacrificed something extremely valuable to honor Him
- D. Something is more valuable to her than this box (Him, the things He brought into her life, honoring Him)-Soon this will dissipate into the air and there'll be no trace of it, but she doesn't care; Many can't give like this because the money means more to them than Him
- E. Should we ever do things like this?-People like to interpret this to mean we should give our lives to The Lord; This isn't her life it's her money and it's evidence that she had already given her life Him-**2Co8:3**
- F. If you make offerings about money you've missed the point
- G. Abraham tithed because he recognized it wouldn't be like this had it not been for the Lord-**Gn14:14**-Armed his trained servants...318...¹⁵...divided himself against them...by night...smote them...¹⁶ ...brought back all the goods and...his brother Lot...his goods...the women...the people...¹⁸ Melchizedek...brought forth bread and wine...¹⁹...Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: ²⁰And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand...he gave him tithes of all