

When might we “throw a party”?



Why “throw a party” if the event itself is joyous?

- To bring the fullness of the joy that is there
- To bring others into that fullness of joy

When might we throw a party in the Kingdom of God?

1



Full of Joy
Luke 10:1-24

bib.ly/Lu10.NIV
tiny.cc/cmchandouts

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Setting the scene: Luke 9

Jesus sent out His 12 apostles

- Proclaim the Kingdom of God → say
- Heal the sick → do

Yet the 12 and the rest still needed a lot of growth!

- Their thinking and attitudes were so different from Jesus
- They didn't have the power Jesus thought they should have
- Jesus's description: "**unbelieving and perverse**"

And this included the 12...

- who were the ones Jesus chose
- who had the most access to Jesus

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Luke 10:1-9

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. **Ask** the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. **Go!** I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and **do not greet anyone** on the road.

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“When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

“When you enter a town and are **welcomed**, eat what is offered to you. **Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’**”

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Luke 10:1-24

1-9: Jesus sent out 72 to bring the Kingdom of God near

- **Pray earnestly:** more workers!
 - So much “Kingdom work” is ready to be done
 - Jesus is able to use people who seemingly were not very ready at all!
 - Urgency and the gracious power of the Spirit
- **Go!**
 - Into danger: *lambs* among wolves
 - Urgently
 - Optimistically: bless first...
 - Heal the sick
- 10-16: • Say: “The kingdom of God has come near”
- 17-24: • When it is near, you have opportunity to respond

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Luke 10:10-16

But when you enter a town and are **not welcomed**, go into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.’ I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

more bearable = less severe judgment
Sodom = famous for being so bad that God literally burned it up

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“**Woe** to you, Chorazin! **Woe** to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will **go down to Hades**.

“**Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.**”

Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum = towns where Jesus taught and did miracles
Tyre and Sidon = cities famous for rejecting God and being judged
Hades = place of punishment, hell

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*Luke 10:1-24***10-16: Rejection of messengers is rejection of Jesus & Father**

- When rejected, declare God’s judgment is coming “on that day”
 - Not: call down fire from heaven or attack
- It will be “more bearable...”
 - Receiving more revelation from God (word & action) and rejecting it results in stricter judgment
 - Sodom, Tyre, & Sidon were famous **for being evil**, and **for being judged** by God
 - They would have believed with similar opportunities
 - “The Kingdom has come near”: You know enough to make your choice

17-24:

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Luke 10:17-24

The seventy-two returned **with joy** and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, **do not rejoice** that the spirits submit to you, but **rejoice** that **your names are written in heaven.**”

snakes and scorpions = symbols of evil forces

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At that time Jesus, **full of joy** through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to **little children**. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom **the Son chooses to reveal him.**”

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Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “**Blessed** are the eyes that see what you see. For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”

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*Luke 10:1-24***17-24: Rejoice in God's gracious self-revelation to people**

- Disciples rejoiced in spiritual power
- Jesus affirmed how their work broke Satan's power
 - God's divine work in His messengers
- But there is a greater joy
 - Being saved forever
 - name written in the "Book of life"
 - The Father's plan: reveal the Son to the humble
 - What we know is far beyond what so many (important) people wanted to see and know
 - A heart that trusts in God is a gift of God

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The Big Idea

**People's response to the Gospel
is the most critical decision one can make
leading to greatest joy
or unimaginable loss**

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What prompts us to throw a party?



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What prompts us to throw a party?



16

What prompts us to throw a party?



17

What prompts us to throw a party?



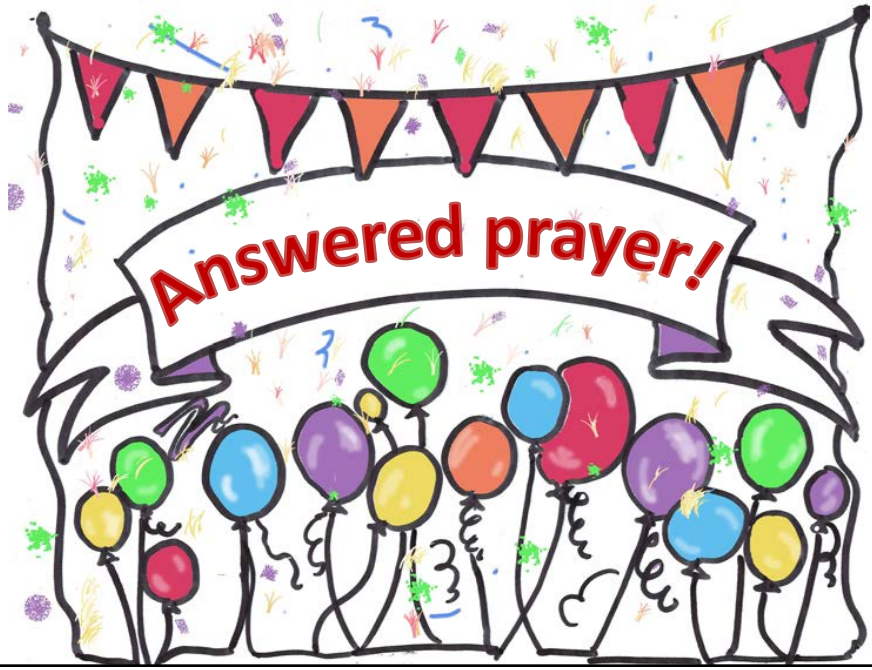
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What prompts us to throw a party?



19

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20

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21

What prompts us to throw a party?



22

What prompts us to throw a party?



Jesus' great joy in the Spirit:
revealing the Father to people

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Our greatest joy: being known by God forever!

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The Big Idea

**People's response to the Gospel
is the most critical decision one can make
leading to greatest joy
or unimaginable loss**

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Application

Utmost importance: our response to the Gospel, enabled by God

- **If you know God through Jesus...**
 - **You have unimaginable blessings!**
 - **Your name is already written on your personal home made by God in the Kingdom of Heaven that is coming to earth**
 - **Because Jesus revealed the Father to you**
 - **What did He do for you?**
 - **Put you in a family where you would see and hear?**
 - **Moved you to a place where you would see and hear?**
 - **Brought someone to you so you would see and hear?**
 - **Spoke through dreams and visions so you would see and hear?**
 - **And patiently opened your heart**
 - **Not because you were important, but because you were not!**
- **Rejoice!!!**

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Application

Utmost importance: our response to the Gospel, enabled by God

- If you know God through Jesus...
- If you don't yet know God through Jesus...
 - Beg Jesus to reveal Himself to you
 - Beg Jesus to open your heart to Him
 - Then trust Him
 - Because He is already doing it!!

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Application

Utmost importance: our response to the Gospel, enabled by God

- If you know God through Jesus...
- If you don't yet know God through Jesus...
- It is entirely a gift of God
 - Not deserved or earned or discovered
 - It is a direct action of the Creator God Himself **for you**
 - **God Himself brought the Kingdom near to you**
 - **God Himself opened your heart**
- Have you ever thrown a **salvation party**?
 - Re-tell the story of God's work and rejoice together!
- When you know the joy of God's work in you, you will...

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Application

Join the ministry of bringing the Kingdom of God near

- Pray earnestly for more people to do “Kingdom work”

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What is “Kingdom work”?

- **Do the works of God:** justice and mercy, beauty and truth, compassion and hope, excellence and praiseworthy, serving, leading, grieving, rejoicing, in patience and kindness, by the Spirit
 - Especially when you feel and are mistreated
 - Especially on behalf of the lowly and oppressed
 - And also on behalf of brothers and sisters in Christ
 - **Tell the Words and works of Jesus**
 - **Everywhere you go:** both inside and outside the Church
 - **To the glory of God:** “the Kingdom of God has come near”
- “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” *Matthew 5:16*

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Application

Join the ministry of bringing the Kingdom of God near

- **Pray earnestly**
 - for more people to do “Kingdom work”
 - for God to use you and me to bring His Kingdom near
 - An astounding privilege!
 - The Kingdom is near when the Spirit of God is near in a person who is praying and following Jesus, both doing and telling
 - “Priesthood of all believers”: **God chooses to use every single believer who will pray and follow Jesus**

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Application

Join the ministry of bringing the Kingdom of God near

- **Pray earnestly** for more people to do “Kingdom work”
- **Go urgently & courageously** in ministry
 - Be an extension of the Kingdom of God to people
 - Even in our weaknesses & imperfections
 - [name an imperfect person in the Bible whom God used]
- **Optimistically**, generously, giving the benefit of the doubt
- Yet **realistically**
- Bless body and soul
- The harvest is plentiful: lots of opportunity for Gospel to be **shown and made known**

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The Big Idea

**People's response to the Gospel
is the most critical decision one can make
leading to greatest joy
or unimaginable loss**

- **Have you trusted Him? Why not let today be the day?**
- **Rejoice greatly in God's work to open your heart**
 - **which leads to...**
- **Join courageously and eagerly in Kingdom work**