

# ROAD TO THE RESURRECTION



CELEBRATE JESUS

# ROAD TO THE RESURRECTION: CELEBRATE JESUS

## Celebrations

- Favorite celebrations
- We love to celebrate the things we care about most...
  - Birthdays
  - Anniversaries
  - Significant life moments & achievements
  - Holidays
  - Summer...





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## Celebrations

- We also take time to remember and lament hard days of the past
  - Remembrance Day
  - Loss of a loved one
- We are intentional about investing time, energy and emotion in these moments or seasons



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## Rituals & Rhythms

- God structured his people with this in mind
  - Sabbath
  - The Temple & Synagogues
  - Feasts, Festivals & Sacrifices
- Christians – God's People Today
  - Sunday Church/Sabbath
  - Baptism & Lord's Supper
  - Christmas, Good Friday, Easter
- Life is best lived with life-giving and healthy rhythms
- Obedience and celebrating Jesus



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## A Lesson from the Life of Hezekiah

- Background
  - Ahaz (father) was an evil king
  - Made idols and placed them all over Judah
  - Sacrificed his own sons to the gods of foreign nations
  - Was horribly defeated by multiple nations
  - Barred the doors of the temple after taking much of the sacred items and giving them to the king of Assyria
  - Hezekiah takes over the throne of Judah with the nation in disarray and disobedience





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## 2 Chronicles 29:1-11

Hezekiah began to reign when he was twenty-five years old, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abijah the daughter of Zechariah. <sup>2</sup> And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done. <sup>3</sup> In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them. <sup>4</sup> He brought in the priests and the Levites and assembled them in the square on the east <sup>5</sup> and said to them, "Hear me, Levites! Now consecrate yourselves, and consecrate the house of the LORD, the God of your fathers, and carry out the filth from the Holy Place.



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## 2 Chronicles 29:1-11

<sup>6</sup> For our fathers have been unfaithful and have done what was evil in the sight of the LORD our God. They have forsaken him and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the LORD AND turned their backs. <sup>7</sup> They also shut the doors of the vestibule and put out the lamps and have not burned incense or offered burnt offerings in the Holy Place to the God of Israel. <sup>8</sup> Therefore the wrath of the LORD came on Judah and Jerusalem, and he has made them an object of horror, of astonishment, and of hissing, as you see with your own eyes. <sup>9</sup> For behold, our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives are in captivity for this.





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## 2 Chronicles 29:1-11

<sup>10</sup> Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with the LORD, the God of Israel, in order that his fierce anger may turn away from us. <sup>11</sup> My sons, do not now be negligent, for the LORD has chosen you to stand in his presence, to minister to him and to be his ministers and make offerings to him.”





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## A Lesson from the Life of Hezekiah

- Hezekiah Re-established covenant
  - Cleanses the temple
  - Re-establishes priests, temple worship & offerings
  - 2 Chr 29:35b-36... So the service of the temple of the LORD was re-established. <sup>36</sup> Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had brought about for his people, because it was done so quickly.
  - Hezekiah sent invitations to all Israel to re-establish the Passover (7 day celebration turned into 14 days!)
  - Destroyed all the idols and alters



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## A Lesson from the Life of Hezekiah

### ■ The Outcome...

#### 1. Great Joy!

2 Chr 30:26... <sup>26</sup> So there was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem.





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## A Lesson from the Life of Hezekiah

### ■ The Outcome...

1. Great Joy!

2. Blessing

2 Chr 30:27a... <sup>27</sup> Then the priests and the Levites arose and blessed the people...



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## A Lesson from the Life of Hezekiah

### ■ The Outcome...

1. Great Joy!
2. Blessing
3. Their prayers were “heard”  
2 Chr 30:27b... and their voice was heard, and  
their prayer came to his holy habitation in  
heaven.





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## A Lesson from the Life of Hezekiah

### ■ The Outcome...

1. Great Joy!
  2. Blessing
  3. Their prayers were “heard”
  4. Generosity
- 2 Chr 31:5-8



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## A Lesson from the Life of Hezekiah

<sup>5</sup> As soon as the command was spread abroad, the people of Israel gave in abundance the first fruits of grain, wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field. And they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything. <sup>6</sup> And the people of Israel and Judah who lived in the cities of Judah also brought in the tithe of cattle and sheep, and the tithe of the dedicated things that had been dedicated to the LORD their God, and laid them in heaps. <sup>7</sup> In the third month they began to pile up the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month. <sup>8</sup> When Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD and his people Israel.





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## A Lesson from the Life of Hezekiah

Hezekiah's Legacy... (2 Chr 31:20-21)

<sup>20</sup> Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and right and faithful before the LORD his God. <sup>21</sup> And every work that he undertook in the service of the house of God and in accordance with the law and the commandments, seeking his God, he did with all his heart, and prospered.



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## What Can We Learn Today from Hezekiah?

1. There is great joy in correcting drift and re-aligning your life with Jesus!
  - Are there things in your life that are putting you out of rhythm with God's desires and purposes?
2. There is great blessing with enjoying and celebrating Jesus with his people
  - Symptoms – blessing others, prayers heard, generosity
3. What practical steps can you take to celebrate Jesus this Easter?
  - Use the opportunity to invite friends and neighbours to our Easter Service!

