

10/11/23

41
FB3

Sermon – Feast of Tabernacles (2023) (Break the Cycle wk1)

Scripture – Deu 16:13-17, John 14:2-6

Main Message – God forces us to make a change sometimes just to get us out of our own habits

Every year God has celebrations. Some are very solemn. Some call us to rejoice. Currently this week is a feast that is called by a few different names depending on the language and translation. It is the Feast of Tabernacles, or Booths, or Shelters, or Sukkot. People are called to leave their homes and abide away from their own “normalcy” of life and live in a shelter outside. There isn’t a lot of direction on what these shelters look like but the Jewish people have refined them. Seasoned campers might call them a lean-to, but I am going to call it a 5th wheel. Consider Jesus’ birth and the nativity scene that most of you are familiar with. It is a picture of a crude shelter in which one could live for a short period.

God wants his people out of their yearlong habits because he knows we need a little push to do break habits, good or bad, in order to reflect upon The Father, The Holy Spirit and of course, Jesus. People tend to get into a routine, and they will go to amazing lengths to maintain the status quo. This feast comes after the fall harvest where folks have been working hard. Its time for a break, but people in general hate change. Forcing people out of their homes, build a shelter, decorate it, and feast for 7 days straight, helps us humans BREAK the CYCLE that we invariably get into. This enables us to think outside the box of our lives and enjoy His Tremendous blessings.

Read Deut 16:13-17

Many believe that the spring feasts have been fulfilled by Jesus by his coming and that these fall feasts ultimate fulfillment are addressed by Jesus’ return. I also subscribe to that philosophy. The Feast of Tabernacles comes at the end of the feasts. Do you recall Jesus saying, I go to make a home for you?

Read John 14:2-6

So imagine the day, for those who believe upon Jesus, who is the only way, where you get that new mansion and we will be with Jesus. Through the Feast of Tabernacles, God is trying to give us a time after the harvest, when the angels have gathered up the tares and thrown them into the fire, and the wheat into HIS Barn. Those in Christ will rejoice greatly. God has given us an image of how all things will become new and wonderful – for those who believe.

Giving us this festival, is an important image to God’s blessing. In practical sense, His provision happens after the harvest where most cultures in times past had plenty of food and people praised God and celebrated – kinda like our thanksgiving holiday. In the future we will share the cup of wine with Christ, where we do it today just as a remembrance of all that he has done.