

## JOY in the JOURNEY V



### “I Never Noticed That!” - Leviticus 23

**Sermon Idea:** *We find joy in our journey with Jesus by availing ourselves of the means of grace with Jesus, we force ourselves to a posture of need, which then enables us to **discover** God’s holy grace (i.e. the beauty of who God is), **receive** God’s holy grace (i.e. the beauty of who we are in Him), and **share/witness** God’s holy grace (the beauty of what he wants everyone to be in him with others).*

**Intro:** What’s the biggest celebration in America every year? Halloween sure is picking up steam=!?. The Super Bowl event is big even to people who don’t watch the game! Christmas leads the list with store shelves already stocked. What about believers worldwide – what do we stake our lives on to celebrate and show Kingdom identity and love no matter what the circumstances? Let’s pause to celebrate the “scenic overlooks” of our faith!

**Read Leviticus 23 and DISCUSS:** (Be on lookout for answers to question 1-3 below.)

1. Identify the sacred Israelite days and festivals in this amazing chapter. What was their purpose, or what do they commemorate?
2. What actions or duties, some repeated, show up throughout the chapter?
3. What is the focus or direction of these events – are they God-ward (for Him), or us-ward (for people), for the other nations? or combinations?
4. Why do you suppose there is such detail in the directions to the people? Is that necessary?
5. Does this seem like “over-kill?” Do these seem like too much to demand for about six months of the year? Why do you think God requires so many sacred days and festivals?
6. Think about what varieties of cultural and religious festivals/celebrations (even other cultures) people keep today? How important are they? What purposes do they serve?
7. How has your family (past or present) regularly celebrated Christian events? What are your favorite or most meaningful actions or rituals?
8. Did Jesus institute any similar ritual or commemoration? How are we doing at that?
9. How might we infuse more Christian depth and meaning to our celebrations? Are special days, and rituals (even Communion) regular “MEANS OF GRACE” for the Body of Christ? Do we take them seriously enough or have gotten too relaxed about them?
10. Are there ways to proclaim God’s character and truth more clearly to non-believers in today’s setting? Any good examples?
11. Is there any danger in keeping form and ritual but missing the true meaning. (Isa. 1:12ff; 29:13)
12. How do these “scenic pauses” bring JOY in our JOURNEY and growth in relationship to Christ?

**Paul said about Jesus:** *“For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ... In the same way, after supper he took the cup... whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he come.”* I Cor. 11: 23 ff