

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

From this day forward, commit to share fun.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 25:6-8, Proverbs 17:22, Ecclesiastes 3:11-13, Nehemiah 8:9-12

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. Take note of how lavish the feast sounds in Isaiah. We might be tempted to think of God as severe or that he only wants us to have a tiny bit of fun. Yet, here God rolls out rich food, the best meats, and the finest of wines. God is portrayed as generous and wanting all peoples to join in a grand feast together. This picture may remind us of the time Jesus made wine out of water, and not the cheap stuff. Jesus made the very best wine!
2. The relationship between God and God's people throughout the Old Testament is pictured as a covenant relationship. In essence, it said God and Israel are married, and God is faithful to the covenant. God is generous and forgiving even when Israel is not. So on holy days, the people were not to weep or mourn for their sins but to remember how gracious and generous God is. God's holiness isn't a reminder of how terrible we are but a reminder of how generous and gracious God is toward us. God's disposition toward us isn't anger or disappointment but love.
3. If we seek after God and rejoice in God's great love for us, that same joy can be the way our most essential relationships hang together. That's what God's people are designed to do. We are to draw strength from our rejoicing in God. Love and a generous spirit go much farther to build up our relationships than fear and punishment.
4. We mustn't fall into thinking that only spontaneous fun and romance count toward building up our relationships. Long term relationships take hard work and planning to be successful. Without planning, our lives get caught up in the whirlwind of our lives' day-to-day events, and we can lose sight of spending special time with one another, thereby weakening our connections. By planning, we communicate thoughtful love to one another and provide each person involved the opportunity to engage in the process and bring what gifts and talents they have to the specified time together.