



It's Time Ministries

The Teaching Ministry of Pastor P.A. Harvin

## **Men's Bible Study Series: 7 Things Winners Do**

### **#6 – Celebrate the Team**

**Celebrate:** 1. acknowledge (a significant or happy day or event) with a social gathering or enjoyable activity. 2. perform (a religious ceremony) publicly and duly, in particular officiate at (the Eucharist). 3. honor or praise publicly.

#### **We celebrate what we appreciate**

- ❖ Look at Michal – 2 Sam. 6:12-23

#### **Our celebrations should not be limited to those in the limelight**

- ❖ Do you cheer on the other team members instead of just the leading scorer?
  - In basketball, we cheer for the scorers but often overlook the rebounders and the defensive specialists
  - In football, we cheer for the offense when they score but forget about defense who prevents our opposition from scoring or the special teams that change the field position
  - In golf, we cheer for the pro but overlook the caddy that sets them up for success
  - In racing, we celebrate the driver but forget about the pit crew that keeps the driver on the track and in position to win
  - In the church, we often celebrate the leader but do we celebrate those in the background

#### **Winners know how to celebrate every member of the team**

- ❖ Every member is needed in order to win – 1 Cor. 12:12-26

#### **Do you know who is really on your team?**

- ❖ Sometimes we don't celebrate people because we think they are not on our team.

#### **We should celebrate who and what Heaven celebrates – Acts 11:1-18, Luke 15:10**

- ❖ We should celebrate repentance just as much if not more than we celebrate winning the race
  - If Heaven celebrates the sinner repenting and we are instructed to pray His Will be done in the earth as it is in Heaven, then how should we respond? Mat. 6:10
- ❖ We should celebrate overcoming obstacles – 2 Sam. 6:12-23; Neh. 12:27-47

## **Tonight's Key Passage: Luke 15 11-24 – Celebrating the Son's Return**

### **Background**

#### **Luke 15:3-7: Celebrated the finding of the lost sheep**

- ❖ Was with the shepherd at one point but got lost
- ❖ The shepherd valued the sheep enough to go find it – Luke 19:10
- ❖ The shepherd celebrated him openly – Rom. 12:15

#### **Luke 15: 8-10: Celebrated the lost coin**

- ❖ She searched for the missing piece by lighting a lamp, sweeping and diligently seeking – Psa. 119:105
- ❖ Called her friends and neighbors to celebrate when she found the missing piece – vs. 9

### **Observations from Our Text**

- ❖ Everyone on the team doesn't always appreciate what they already have. Let's look at some of the younger son's mistakes:
  - Thought he was missing out on something – vs. 12
  - Misplaced values – he didn't realize how good he had it until it was all gone
  - Chose to squander his inheritance by putting
  - Chose possessions before his relationship with his father
  - Lost vision and perspective – began living in the now without regard for what's next
  - Turned to the wrong source instead of to the father
    - They wouldn't even help him – vs. 16
  - Chose to serve one who didn't share his faith
    - Caused him to degrade to feeding swine and wanting their food

**➔WHAT HAVE WE DEGRADED OURSELVES TO ACCEPTING BECAUSE WE HAVE LEFT THE FATHER?**
- ❖ He messed up but he came to himself – Vs. 17
  - When he thought of the father's provision and favor
    - ⇒ **Part of our responsibility as men is to operate with the love, favor and provision of God so that our sons and daughters will be able to come to themselves...**
  - Please note that the father took well care of even his servants
- ❖ Vs. 18: he made the decision to get up
- ❖ Vs. 19: Not worthy to yourself
  - Had squandered his birthright and had no claim to his father's estate
  - But that's the work of grace – Eph. 2:8
- ❖ Vs. 20: The father started celebrating him before he got there
- ❖ Vs. 22: the father still had plenty to celebrate with...
- ❖ Vs. 24: Anytime that which was dead is alive again, we ought to celebrate – Eph. 2:1-10