

SOMETIMES YOU WILL NEVER KNOW THE TRUE  
VALUE OF A MOMENT UNTIL IT BECOMES A  
MEMORY”

The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.

<sup>3</sup> “There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the Lord.

<sup>4</sup> “These are the Lord’s appointed festivals, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times (Leviticus 23:1-4 NIV):

There are three phrases in this short passage that we need to consider. The first is the phrase, “These are my appointed festivals.” When we think about celebrations, including our Christmas time, we usually think that these are our times to remember God – specifically the coming of His Son. But God says these celebrations are appointed by Him. His blessing is upon our time and our remembrance. This is not just something we are pondering on our own.

The second phrase is “proclaim.” When we hold celebrations like this, we are proclaiming several things to an unbelieving world. We are declaring the mighty acts of God, and how those acts touch our lives. But we are also proclaiming our allegiance and service to the Lord.

Finally, we need to look at the words, “sacred assembly.” When we gather to celebrate and remember, the time we spend is sacred. We are worshiping God when we sing our songs, when we enjoy our food, and when we give our gifts. This is a time when we understand the holiness of God.

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## IT’S THE HOLIDAY SEASON

One of my favorite Christian books was written by Tony Campolo, titled *The Kingdom of God is a Party*. The book encourages us to never forget how much we have to celebrate because of the good news of the gospel of God.

It is easy to become so engulfed in the work of preparation that we neglect the rest of the celebration.

Oprah Winfrey once commented, “The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate.”

The Scripture teaches, “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men” (John 1:14).

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11 KJV).

Isn’t that reason enough to celebrate?

