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# The Joys of Holy Places (The Presence of Holiness)

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## The Joys of Holiness

Pastor Wil Nichols

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***Sermon: The Joys of Holiness: The Joys of Holy Places (The Presence of Holiness)***

***New Series Messages: “The Joys of Holiness”***

- Theme Scriptures: 1 Peter 1:15–16 (AV)<sup>15</sup> But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; <sup>16</sup> Because it is written, ***Be ye holy***; for I am holy.
- Sermon: Entering into the Joy of the Lord (The Abundant Life of Holiness)
- Sermon: The Holiness Lifestyle (Honoring, Pleasing, and Glorifying God)
- Sermon: The Joys of Holy People (Chosen, Peculiar, and Royal People)
  - The Joys of Chosen People
  - The Joys of Peculiar People
  - The Joys of Royal People

***Lesson Text***

Exodus 3:1–6 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, *even* to Horeb. <sup>2</sup> And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *was* not consumed. <sup>3</sup> And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. <sup>4</sup> And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here *am* I. <sup>5</sup> And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy ground. <sup>6</sup> Moreover he said, I *am* the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

***Introduction***

Last week we started a three-part mini-series on Holiness that deals with the Joys of Holy People, the Joys of Holy Places, and the Joys Holy Praises.

Today we now look at Holy Places!

God didn't just call us to be Holy People, but he called us to assemble in Holy Places.

- Psalm 100:4 (AV)<sup>4</sup> Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name.
- Deuteronomy 12:5 (AV)<sup>5</sup> But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, *even* unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: (Seek the Lord at His Place of Worship)
- Hebrews 10:25 (AV) <sup>25</sup> Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Now the purpose of the Holy Place was not just so we could have a nice facility where we could meet and fellowship with each other, but to experience the power of God's Holy Presence.

As a result of regularly entering into the Holy Place, three things would occur; the people would receive power from their assembly, purpose from our calling, and possession of their territory.

***Series and Sermon: The Joys of Holiness: The Joys of Holy Places (The Presence of Holiness)***

***I. The Joys of The Holy Assembly (Power)***

Exodus 3: <sup>2</sup> And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *was* not consumed. <sup>3</sup> And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

One of the first things God requires of Holy People is to regularly assemble in the Holy Place (To Praise Him, Seek Him, and Worship Him).

There is a divine Purpose for a Holy Assembly, and the enemy does everything he can to either Prevent it or Pervert it.

The enemy Prevents Holy Assembly by keeping us preoccupied with the cares of this world.

- Mark 4:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> **And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.**
- Instead of keeping the sabbath, Worshipping God on the Lord's Day, we're too busy working 60 hours a week, 2 and 3 jobs.

The enemy also Perverts the Assembly by changing its purpose and original intent

- Matthew 21:13 (AV)<sup>13</sup> And said unto them, It is written, **My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.**
- Instead of being a place of Worship, it's been perverted into a place immorality, carnality, conflict, strife, contention, and discord.
- 1 Corinthians 3:3 (AV)<sup>3</sup> For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

But when we assemble for God's purpose, we are equipped with power.

The Holy Assembly gives us The Power of Persuasion to encourage each other:

- Hebrews 10:24–25 (AV)<sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: <sup>25</sup> Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

The Holy Assembly gives us The Power of Agreement to strengthen each other:

- Matthew 18: <sup>20</sup> **For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**
- Matthew 18: <sup>19</sup> **Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.**
- Matthew 18: <sup>18</sup> **Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

## ***II The Joys of The Holy Calling (Purpose)***

Exodus 3: <sup>4</sup> And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here *am* I.

Once God gets our attention to come into the Holy Assembly, he gives us a Holy Call. And the reason for the call is to give purpose.

Too many people struggle with life because they look for purpose in all the wrong places; looking for purpose in jobs or careers, looking for purpose in people, places, and things.

But true purpose comes from God, and he reveals it through the call!

Romans 8:28 (AV)<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the **called according to his purpose.**

Now I can appreciate our modern technology and how it allows the Word of God to be shared globally; how the sick and shut-in or those traveling can peak into the service from their iPhones, iPads, and MacBook Computers to get a Word from the Lord.

But I believe that too many of us have just made it a tool of convenience; allowing the enemy to rob us of our calling. Why? Because the Holy Call comes in the Holy Place!

You see, before there were mobile phones, we use to have these things called land-line telephones. And when you were waiting on an important call, you had to be at home to get it.

Even in this building, although we have cell phones and internet phone lines, the fire inspector requires that we have an old fashion land-line phone connection for the fire alarm system.

Why? Because sometimes cell phones don't get service (Sprint), and internet service goes down (Spectrum). And when you're in a fire, you can't wait to get a connection.

Exodus 3: <sup>4</sup> **And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him ...**

Some calls from God aren't going to come when you're sitting at home in the convenience of your pajamas. Some calls aren't going to connect when you're trying to stream service and surf the web. It won't connect, you won't be in place, you'll be distracted, you'll miss the call!

God had to take Moses out of Egypt and into the Holy Place, on the backside of a mountain so that he could connect to his call. He put him in the presence of Holiness to get his undivided attention; to get him to turn aside!

God needs us to assemble and turn aside from the cares of this world, turn aside from television and the internet, turn aside from trouble and issues of life and take the call for our purpose.

## ***III. The Joys of The Holy Ground (Possession)***

Exodus 3: <sup>5</sup> And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy ground.

We experience the Joys of the Holy Place

## The Joys of Holy Places (The Presence of Holiness)

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- The Holy Assembly gives us Power (the Power of Persuasion and Agreement)
- The Holy Call gives us a Purpose (the Connection with God)
- The Holy Ground gives us Possession (to take Dominion over our Territory)

When we assemble with Holy People, and get a connection for our Holy Call, the ground that we stand on becomes Holy.

Ex 3:<sup>5</sup> ...put off thy shoes from off thy feet for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy ground

The ground under Moses feet was initially just ground. It was just the back side of a mountain in the middle of a desert where he kept the flock of his father-in-law. But once God got Moses' attention for a Holy Assembly, and he turned and took his Holy Call, the ground under his feet became Holy: **“Set apart, Separated, and Sanctified for God’s Divine Purpose!”**

When the Ground beneath your feet becomes Holy, it no longer is just ground, it no longer is just a place, it no longer is just a building; **it is now set apart for Divine Possession!**

Holy Ground means Dominion and Power:

- Jude 24–25 (AV)<sup>24</sup> Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, <sup>25</sup> To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.
- Luke 10:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**

Holy Ground means Protection:

- Isaiah 54:17 (AV)<sup>17</sup> No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

Holy Ground means Possession:

- Psalm 24:1 (AV)<sup>1</sup> The earth *is* the LORD’S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.
- Joshua 1:3 (AV)<sup>3</sup> Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, ...
- Matthew 11:12 (AV)<sup>12</sup> **And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.**

**Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Joys of Holy Places (The Presence of Holiness))**

**Lesson Text**

- Exodus 3:1–6

**Sermon Outline (Notes)**

**I. *The Joys of The Holy Assembly (Power)***

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**II. *The Joys of The Holy Call (Purpose)***

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**III. *The Joys of The Holy Ground (Possession)***

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**Questions**

**I. Getting to Know “Me”**

1. If you had to delete all but 3 Apps from your smartphone or tablet, which ones would you keep and why?
2. What Challenges have or do you face concerning attending Church? How did or would you overcome them?
3. What 2 famous people would you choose to have dinner with and where?

**II. Into the Bible**

1. *Koinonia* is a Greek word that means “fellowship, sharing in common, communion.” In Phil. 2:1-2 Paul is encouraging the church to imitate Christ’s humility when in fellowship together. According to verse 2, what should be the outcome of believers when in God’s holy place?
2. Name 3 or more benefits from attending church regularly.
3. How does God’s act of reconciliation deliver us from feelings of shame due to evil thoughts and actions to holiness? (reference scripture: Col. 1:21-22)

**III. Life Application**

1. How will you use this message to transform your home, workplace, and marketplaces into joy-filled holy places?
2. If ever asked what is your calling or purpose, what would you say? Write a 2-3 sentence “elevator pitch” describing what your holy calling is.