

# Joy

Esther 9

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Esther+9&version=NIV>

***“This happened on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the fourteenth they rested and made it a day of feasting and joy.” (vs.18)***

There are many places in the scriptures where God’s people take time to feast and be filled with the joy of the Lord. In fact, we even see Jesus feasting with friends, celebrating holy days, and rejoicing at weddings. Not only have Esther and Mordecai celebrated and great victory over Haman, but the Jewish people have experienced great victory through them and the new decree of the King. After fear, fasting, praying, and fighting they stop to rest and have a day of feasting and joy. A day of resting in God’s presence and giving God thanks for victory. A day of experiencing the joy of their Lord.

How often do we take time for a day of rest, feasting and joy? I am thinking ahead to Easter, a time to celebrate Christ’s victory over sin and death. The highest holy day of the church. It should be a day of rest, feasting, and joy. A day to celebrate the goodness of God. Will we celebrate? Or will we get consumed by stress worrying and complaining about getting up early for an extra service, stressing over which family member is hosting and what dishes we need to make? We may end up like Martha, washing dishes and being upset rather than sitting at the feet of Christ in rest, joy, and admiration. Our feast days quickly become “to-do” days that cause busyness, weariness, and stress.

So, how do we better take a restful holy day? After all someone has to host and cook if we are going to feast. We begin with where our focus lies. We set out to intentionally keep our focus on Christ. As the Jews in Susa rejoiced, their focus was not on family dynamics and food prep, their focus was on God’s strength and victory. They rested knowing that they were safe and secure because of what their God had accomplished. They were filled with joy because they had trusted in the Holy One and the Holy One was faithful. Their focus was not on themselves or others, it was on God. Its hard to not feel joyful and at rest when our focus is on God. In this way we can have daily moments of joy and feasting. As we approach the joy of resurrection, continually refocus your attention on the source of your rest and joy.