

## **Simple (Summer Series) | July 7, 2019**

*Celebrating - Luke Knight*

Opening Question: When are we the most Christian? Perhaps when we are forgiving and celebrating.

### **1. Why does this practice exist?**

- Genesis 1,2, Luke 15,19, Philippians 4.2-5
- Joy is the natural response to welcoming Jesus and celebration naturally follows.
- We live out of a "good news" story.
- "In God's home there is an everlasting party." (St. Augustine)

### **2. How has the Church historically explored this practice?**

- "I passed on what I received from the Lord himself..." (1 Corinthians 11). A meal of remembrance that leads us to forgiveness and celebration.
- Weddings, Funerals, Feasts, Festivals.
- Celebration through generosity and ordinary, daily events.

### **3. How can we explore this practice today?**

- "Because you belong to the Lord..." (Philippians 4) Forgive and celebrate!
- Ask: Do I believe the gospel?
- Become: A party-starter by lifting burdens and making joy possible because of your gracious character.
- Find: Ways to consume less and celebrate more (quiet, loud, individual, communal). Learn to say "thanks" daily (joy jar).
- Ask: what is the good news for today?

*Further Resources:*

- *The Rest of God*, Mark Buchanan.
- *Community and Growth*, Jean Vanier.
- *Surprised by Joy*, C.S. Lewis.
- *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, Trish Harrison Warren.
- Theology of Joy, a 20 minute talk between N.T. Wright and Miroslav Volf.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2u3PGZc8VsU>