

## Celebrating the Journey

**Intro:** There has been many milestones in our 19 year journey as a church that we have celebrated over the years.

- The milestone of filling up the Molalla Elementary School gym full of people
- The milestone of signing a lease to move into a vacant grocery store
- The milestone of deciding on multiple services
- The milestone of a second building project 7 years ago / purchasing an office building
- The milestone of purchasing this entire property last summer

With each milestone, there is the need to celebrate that specific part of the journey Jesus has been taking us on. There is a need to stop, reflect and celebrate what God has done. Today is one of those days to begin this process.

- Now we are a few days away from finishing a 22,000 sq. ft remodel. This is a big deal. God has entrusted to us more space for the purpose of reaching children and students. That space represents a significant faith journey for us as a church. It is yet another milestone in our journey with Jesus
- We don't just celebrate this fact today and be done with it. We simply begin the celebration today. Hopefully there is a spirit of joy, celebration and praise that permeates through this entire place for months. Celebrating is a very important, highly spiritual exercise for the people of God.
- Even in the midst of our own struggles and pain, being able to celebrate that God is still working is an important step in our faith journey. As much as we all need to see God work in our own lives and in our own pain and struggles, we need to celebrate the bigger picture of God's work as well.

Why is it important to celebrate the journey Jesus is taking us on?

### **1. Celebrating what God has done results in more trust**

*Ps. 40:3 "He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the LORD." (NLT)*

- Hearing what God has done makes you want to experience that yourself. Celebrating how God has worked, causes others to trust God in a similar way. Holy celebrations are influential. "They will put their trust in God."
- This is why sharing our story is so important. We don't share our story to talk about ourselves. We share our history to highlight what God has done. We are a living example of what putting your trust in God looks like and what results come from this.
- This is HIS story not ours. We've joined His narrative. BUT, in order to do this we have to trust Him. This is what it looks like when a church trusts Jesus. There is this

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progressive experience with Jesus that keeps getting better. There are more and more milestones of faith to celebrate.

- Hopefully, for those of you that are newer to Foothills, it is the stories you hear about what God has done and is doing that make you want to be a part of this amazing narrative. You want to experience the same things in your life.
- For others, life is really hard right now and taking a Sunday to “Celebrate” seems like a wasted Sunday. Yet, it is in hearing others talk about God and His faithfulness, and His provision that can give you hope God will show up in your pain...in your own struggle.
- Wouldn't you like to see this in your own life as well? Learning to trust Jesus is such a journey. I want you to listen to someone who has been on this journey since coming to Foothills.
- Testimony – Bob Oblack
- My prayer is as we celebrate and share stories of God's faithfulness, we just learn to trust Him even more.

## 2. Celebrating what God has done spreads His reputation

*Ps. 102:21 “And so the Lord's fame will be **celebrated** in Zion, his praises in Jerusalem.”*  
(NLT)

- When we celebrate what God has done, it spreads His reputation outside the walls of this building. People in Molalla and beyond hear about the great things that God has done and is doing. The Lord's fame is celebrated.
- A building project spreads His reputation – explain – nobody is surprised a multi-million dollar project happened in Portland / Tualatin / or Lake Oswego...BUT Molalla?
  - This project has influenced the faith of other churches to trust Jesus more. HOW?
  - 15 years ago many people thought we were crazy signing a lease and moving into this building. I had Pastors tell me this after the fact – explain – Yet, all acknowledge what God is doing.
  - Other spiritual leaders have watched this faith journey and it has inspired them to trust God even more. If God will do that for Foothills, then why won't He do that for us?
  - It's never about a building. It is about our faith journey with Jesus trusting Him for things that are beyond us. God's fame is only celebrated when God's people trust Him. If we do not trust Him, we hinder the power of God working in our circumstances.
  - If we do not continue trusting Him we actually hinder His reputation in our community and surrounding area. If we want Molalla / Colton / Mulino / Beavercreek and beyond to know Jesus, we must continue this journey of trust.
  - This journey of trust involves being willing to serve in this new space. The Lord is going to fill up this new space with kids! We need to embrace this responsibility

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by being ready for them. The reality is we need more people to help. (Explain Ids Church need). I will be back at a table with Kim Renner after the service.

- Meeting needs in the community spreads HIS reputation – explain – We meet the needs of people in our community regardless if they attend Foothills or not. People are amazed at this fact - explain
  - Loving Hearts Preschool - # of kids
  - Counseling Center
  - Resource Center - Food and clothing - #s
  - Food for students in 9 different schools
  - Molalla Adult Community Center
  - Celebrate Recovery
  - All these ministries are for everyone regardless if they attend Foothills or not. The way a community comes to know a compassionate, loving, merciful heavenly Father is when the people of God demonstrate these qualities. This is why we meet needs. We are showing a community who God is. Through meeting needs, His reputation grows.
- Lives that have been changed spreads His reputation  
As wonderful as all these things are, the greatest miracles by far are the lives that have been changed. How many of us are different because of our experience with Jesus here at Foothills? Jesus has altered our very lives. Sharing our story was what last week's message was all about. Hope you're still thinking about this?
- Video testimony: Bob Anderson
  - Last week I asked to submit some testimonies. Thank you! Explain
  - Read some responses that have been submitted. / Live stream responses

Life change is what Jesus is all about. The more lives that are transformed by Jesus the more His reputation grows.

### **3. Celebrating what God has done makes us long for more**

*Ps. 21:13 "Rise up, O Lord, in all your power. With music and singing we **celebrate** your mighty acts." (NLT)*

Lord, rise up...show up...we want to see more of your power. We celebrate what you have done but we want more still.

*Ps. 130:6 "I long for the Lord more than sentries long for the dawn..." (NLT)* Lord, I long for...I anticipate you showing up and working your wonders in our midst.

- Experiencing God at work is addicting

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The reality is; the more you experience the more you want. It's like fishing...How many fish are enough? Just one more!

- The more I have experienced God's wonders here at Foothills the more passion I have to see more.
  - I have people ask me where all my passion comes from. It comes from this addiction. I love experiencing Jesus in real life. I love to taste and see. When I get a front row seat into what God is doing, how can I not be excited about it? You start longing for it. You start asking God for more. It creates a passion inside you.
  - You're willing to alter your life to experience Him more. Sometimes we simply forget how experiential our relationship with Jesus really is.
  - Some Christians have settled for a cold religious belief system instead of a dynamic experience with Jesus. You are missing out on one of the greatest experiences of human existence.
- Experiencing God at work creates an expectation for more  
As much as we are celebrating what God has done today, I have this tremendous expectation that more is on the way. This is why if you are new to the journey of Foothills, you don't have to feel bad that you missed something by not being here years ago. There's more of His might / power / miracles on the way!
    - There's an entire site plan to trust Him with
    - There's new ministries to develop with His leading
    - There are new ways He is going to ask you to risk and trust Him
    - There are 1000s of unchurched people yet to be loved, embraced and see them connected to Jesus in a very real way.
    - There are gifts and abilities in you that have yet to be discovered as you learn to trust Him. The most dynamic, influential ministry is yet to be discovered and it is hidden inside some of you.
    - As wonderful as our first 20 years have been, I fully anticipate the next 20 years will be beyond what we can ask or imagine. We've only begun to see the wonders of God and only begun to celebrate His miracles.
    - Today we are not simply celebrating the soon completion of a building project. We are celebrating a story that Jesus is writing. We are celebrating His story that we are a part of. It is a story worthy of our praise!

*Ps. 34:3 "Come, let us tell of the LORD's greatness; let us exalt his name together." (NLT)*

Let's do this together!

- Don't forget, I'll be at the Kids Church table in the Hallway!

Prayer time:

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