

The Gables – Anniversaries

Rick: Donna and I will be celebrating our 22nd wedding anniversary on St. Patrick's Day, which is March 17th. So I thought we would talk about anniversaries today.

Ice Breaker – “Husband Shopping Centre”

A "Husband Shopping Centre" was opened where a woman could go to choose from among many men, to be her husband. It was laid out in five floors, with the men increasing in positive attributes as you ascended up the floors. The only rule was, once you opened the door to any floor, you must choose a man from that floor, and if you went up a floor, you couldn't go back down except to leave the place. So, a couple of girlfriends go to the place to find men.

First floor, the door had a sign saying: "These men have jobs and love kids." The women read the sign and say: "Well that's better than not having jobs, or not loving kids, but I wonder what's further up?" So up they go.

Second floor says: "These men have high paying jobs, love kids, and are extremely good looking". "Hmmm", say the girls, "But, I wonder what's further up?"

Third floor: "These men have high paying jobs, are extremely good looking, love kids and help with the housework." "Wow!" say the women. "Very tempting, BUT, there's more further up!" And so again, they go up.

Fourth floor: "These men have high paying jobs, love kids, are extremely good looking, help with the housework, and have a strong romantic streak." "Oh, mercy me. But just think!?!?! What must be awaiting us further on!" So up to the fifth floor they go.

The sign on that door said: "This floor is just to prove that women are impossible to please. Thank you for shopping and have a nice day!!"

By Ashok Dhingara from: http://jayesh.profitfromprices.com/Fun_Wife_jokes.htm

Donna: Very funny, Rick, but I've got one too:

A woman was walking down a street when she heard a voice from behind, "If you take one more step, a brick will fall down on your head and kill you."

The woman stopped and a big brick fell right in front of her. The woman was astonished. She went on, and after a while she was going to cross the road. Once again the voice shouted, "Stop! Stand still! If you take one more step a car will run over you, and you will die."

The woman did as she was instructed, just as a car came careening around the corner, barely missing her.

The Gables – Anniversaries

The woman asked. “Who are you?”

“I am your guardian angel,” the voice answered.

“Oh, yeah?” The woman asked, “And where were you when I was getting married?”

By Ashok Dhingara from: http://jayesh.profitfromprices.com/Fun_best_anniversary_jokes.htm

Dialog –

Donna: Does the Bible say anything about anniversaries?

Rick: Sure. Can someone read Deuteronomy 16:5-6?

Donna: Why do we celebrate anniversaries?

Rick: To remember an important event.

Donna: Why did God want the Israelites to remember the Passover?

Rick: Because he wanted them to know and appreciate his faithfulness in rescuing them from the Egyptians.

Donna: What other examples are there of anniversaries in the Bible?

Rick: Now I'd like everyone to read their passage when I call on you, then I'll make a brief comment on each one.

- Deuteronomy 4:9. Moses is telling the Israelites to pass on what they have seen to their children.
- Malachi 3:16. God remembers those who honor and obey Him on a Scroll of Remembrance.
- 1 Corinthians 11:25. Jesus asks us to remember His sacrifice when we take communion.
- Genesis 9:16. God remembers His covenant to not bring a worldwide flood on his creation again.
- Exodus 20:8. Although we are no longer under the law, we should observe one day of the week for rest and worship.
- Leviticus 26:42. God remembers his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- Nehemiah 9:16-17. Nehemiah warns the Jews of his day what happened to their forefathers when they failed to remember the miracles of God.

The Gables – Anniversaries

- Esther 9:28. Purim is a Jewish celebration commemorating the rescue of the Jewish people from Haman by the actions Queen Esther and her uncle Mordecai.
- Psalm 105:8. God remembers his covenants with his people for a thousand generations.
- Exodus 12:13-15a. The Jews celebrate Passover in remembrance of their first-born children being saved from the Angel of Death. They eat unleavened bread for seven days to commemorate the haste with which they left their life of slavery in Egypt.
- Exodus 23:15-16. The Jews celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering.
- Leviticus 23 (not read). This chapter summarizes the festivals the Jews were to celebrate, as we've discussed: the Sabbath and Feast of Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Feast of Weeks, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement and Feast of Tabernacles.

Donna: What other anniversaries are there?

Rick: Well, what special days do we remember in the life of Jesus?

Donna: We remember Jesus' birth at Christmas, His death on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter.

Rick: What other special days do we remember each year?

Donna: We remember the bounty God has provided on Thanksgiving. We also remember people's birthdays, such as President Lincoln, President Washington, and Dr. Martin Luther King, along with the birthdays of our friends and family.

Rick: Did you know that each of us has an anniversary with God?

Donna: We do?

Rick: Yes; the day we accept Jesus as our savior. At some point in our life we must acknowledge before God that we are a sinner, that we need God to forgive us of our sins, and that we accept God's free gift of forgiveness by believing that Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

Donna: What if someone has never accepted Jesus as Savior?

Rick: Well, they can pray to receive Him at any time. Would someone please read John 1:12-13.

Donna: What does it mean to be born of God?

The Gables – Anniversaries

Rick: That you will become God’s adopted son or daughter. Would someone please read Romans 10:9.

Donna: What does it mean to be “saved.”

Rick: That God will save you from the penalty of your sins, which is eternal separation from Him in hell.

So, to summarize, anniversaries are special times to remember special things that God or other people have done for us, correct?

Donna: Correct.

Rick: Like when you married me.

The Gables – Anniversaries

Deuteronomy 16:5-6: You must not sacrifice the Passover in any town the LORD your God gives you except in the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name. There you must sacrifice the Passover in the evening, except in the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name. There you must sacrifice the Passover in the evening, when the sun goes down, on the **anniversary** of your departure from Egypt.

Deuteronomy 4:9: Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you **do not forget** the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

Malachi 3:16: Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of **remembrance** was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name.

1 Corinthians 11:25: In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in **remembrance** of me.

Genesis 9:16: Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and **remember** the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.

Exodus 20:8: **Remember** the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy.

Leviticus 26:42: I will **remember** my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.

The Gables – Anniversaries

Nehemiah 9:16-17: But they, our forefathers, became arrogant and stiff-necked, and did not obey your commands. They refused to listen and **failed to remember** the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.

Esther 9:28: These days should be **remembered and observed in every generation** by every family, and in every province and in every city. And these days of Purim should never cease to be celebrated by the Jews, nor should the memory of them die out among their descendants.

Psalm 105:8: **He remembers his covenant forever**, the word he commanded, for a thousand generations...

Exodus 12:13-15a: The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. **This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come** you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance. For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast.

Exodus 23:15-16: **Three times a year** you are to celebrate a festival to me. Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread... Celebrate the Feast of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field. Celebrate the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field.

The Gables – Anniversaries

Leviticus 23:40-42: On the first day you are to take choice fruit from the trees, and palm fronds, leafy branches and poplars, and rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. **Celebrate this as a festival to the LORD for seven days each year.** This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month. Live in booths for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in booths.

John 1:12-13: Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Romans 10:9: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.