

The Joy of the LORD Is Your Strength

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References: **Nehemiah 8**, Leviticus 23:33-34; Leviticus 23:40; Nehemiah 7:73; Nehemiah 8:1-10

Singing with Thanksgiving

We've been asked actually to sing one of our favorite songs today. Timothy asked if we could sing a song that we would like to sing.

我们今天提摩太邀请我们要唱一首歌，一首我们非常喜爱、经常唱的歌。

So the song we're going to sing is, "Lord, You've Really Been Good to Me." Here's the question: I want you to raise your hand if you can say, "Lord, You've really been good to me." Can you say that from your heart: "Lord, You've really been good to me"?

这首歌的名字是《主啊，您对我真好》。现在我的问题是：你们每个人是否能真正从内心说“主啊，您对我真好”呢？

Okay, so we're going to sing it together for Timothy's sake and for our own sake. Let's go.

好，我们一起来唱，为了提摩太，也为了我们自己来唱。

Lord, You've really been good to me,
Lord, You've really been good to me.
You took my burden and You set me free,
Lord, You've really been good to me.
Hallelujah!
Lord, You've really been good to me,
Lord, You've really been good to me.
You took my burden and You set me free,
You've really been good, You've really been good,
You've really been good to me.

主啊，您对我真好，
主啊，您对我真好。
您卸去我的重担，使我得自由，
主啊，您对我真好。
哈利路亚！
主啊，您对我真好，
主啊，您对我真好。
您卸去我的重担，使我得自由，
您对我真好，您对我真好，
主啊，您对我真好。

All right, that was really good. But on the last note, you sopranos have got to sing out loud because you've got to carry some of us who can't get up there anymore. So hit that note really well on the last note one more time.

非常好！你们这些女高音在最后一个音符要把声音拔上去，因为有些人唱不上去，需要你们带动。我们再唱一遍。

Lord, You've really been good to me,
Lord, You've really been good to me.
You took my burden and You set me free,
Lord, You've really been good to me.
Hallelujah!
Lord, You've really been good to me,
Lord, You've really been good to me.
You took my burden and You set me free,
You've really been good, You've really been good,
You've really been good to me.

主啊，您对我真好，
主啊，您对我真好。
您卸去我的重担，使我得自由，
主啊，您对我真好。
哈利路亚！
主啊，您对我真好，
主啊，您对我真好。
您卸去我的重担，使我得自由，

您对我真好，您对我真好，
主啊，您对我真好。

Thank you, Norma. Thank you, Timothy, for suggesting that piece this morning.

谢谢诺玛，也感谢提摩太今早提议我们唱这首歌。

The Feasts of the LORD

Take your Bibles, and we're going to turn to the book of Leviticus chapter 23. In Leviticus 23, we have a description of the feasts of Jehovah. What were the feasts of Jehovah like?

请大家把圣经翻到利未记第二十三章。在利未记第二十三章中，有关于耶和华节期的记载。那么，耶和华的节期是什么样子的呢？

There were times when all the congregation of Israel went to Jerusalem and had a feast time. They went to Jerusalem to remember the Lord; they were gathered together around the Lord. They went three times a year. They went for seven or eight days in the spring, they went for one day in the summer, and they went for seven or eight days in the fall.

在那样的时期，以色列全会众都要去到耶路撒冷过节。他们去耶路撒冷是为了纪念主，聚集在主的周围。他们一年去三次：春季去七至八天，夏季去一天，秋季去七至八天。

They were **holy days**, from which we get our word "holidays." When you go to work, you say, "I'd like some vacation. How much time do I get for vacation?" Most employers give their employees at least two weeks' vacation at the start, and then after they've been there for a while, they get to take a longer vacation. Where did the concept of vacation come from in Canada? It came from the Bible! Why two weeks? It came from the Bible, that's why! Aren't you glad for the Bible? Most of the wonderful things we have stemmed from the Bible.

那些日子被称为“圣日”（holy days），这就是我们今天“假日”（holidays）一词的来源。当你去工作时，你会问：“我想休假，一年有多少天假期？”大多数雇主在员工刚入职的第一年给两周假期，工作久了还会给更长时间。在加拿大，假期的概念是从哪里来的？是从圣经来的！为什么是两周？也是从圣经来的！有一本圣经岂不是令人欢喜吗？我们拥有的大多数美好的事物，都是源自圣经。

They went to Jerusalem three times a year, and they had great times when they were there. We're going to start reading now in Leviticus 23:33-34:

他们每年上耶路撒冷三次，在那里度过了非常美好的时光。现在我们开始读利未记第二十三章三十三至三十四节：

[Leviticus 23:33-34 NKJV]

³³ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ³⁴ "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD.

耶和華對摩西說：“你曉諭以色列人說：這七月十五日為住棚節，要在耶和華面前守這節七日。”

It's the Feast of Tabernacles. It takes place in the seventh month, which is really at the end of harvest time. The end of harvest time is a happy time. If you were a farmer and you got to work anytime in the year, what part of the year would you like to work most?

這就是住棚節。它發生在七月，也就是收穫季節的尾聲。收穫季的結束是一段非常快樂的时光。如果你是個農民，在一整年中，你最喜欢在哪个季节工作呢？

I used to think that I would like to work in harvest time, gathering fruit. When I was gathering fruit, I thought I would do it like this: if I were going to bring the peaches in, I'd say, "One for you, and one for me," and I'd eat a peach. Then after that, I'd bring some more peaches in and eat another one for me! I'd like to be part of the harvest because in harvest time you get to eat all the good stuff that you're picking.

我以前常想，我最想在收穫的季節採摘水果。摘水果的時候我會這樣：如果我去收桃子，我會說“一個給你，一個給我”，然後吃一個桃子；接着再收一些桃子，“又一個給我”。我喜欢收穫的季節，因為在收穫時可以吃到所有採摘的美物。

The exciting time of the feast was the harvest time. All the good things are in; all the hard work for the year has been done. It's a marvelous time, and I would like to have gone to Jerusalem at the Feast of Tabernacles. I think it would be lots of good fun.

節期中最令人興奮的就是收穫的時刻。所有的農作物都收割進倉，一整年的勞苦已經結束。這是一個奇妙的時刻，我很想在住棚節去耶路撒冷，那一定會非常喜樂。

The end of verse 40 says:

第四十節的末尾說：

[Leviticus 23:40 NKJV]

And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days.

“第一日要拿美好树上的果子和棕树上的枝子，与茂密树的枝条并河旁的柳枝，在耶和华你们的神面前欢喜七日。”

What would they do for seven days? They would rejoice before the Lord. I think that's a good deal; that's what I would like to do! Why do you go to church? We go to church for many reasons, but one of them is to **rejoice**. You think about all the good things God has done for you; you think about all the good things God will do for you, and you sing, "Lord, You've really been good to me!"

他们在七天里要做什么呢？他们要在耶和华面前欢喜。我认为这太好了，这也正是我想要做的！你去教会是为什么？我们去教会有很多原因，但其中一个就是为了**欢喜**。你想起神为你所行的一切美事，思想神将要为你成就的诸般美事，然后唱道：“主啊，您对我真好！”

That is what they did at the end of harvest time. Is that probably the best time of year to rejoice? I think so. Some of the relaxing days in winter would be ahead, but the rigor that's required in springtime and in the summer to get the crops all ready for harvesting involves a lot of work. The rejoicing came at the end of all the wonderful hard work. The Lord planned for His people to have a good vacation.

这就是他们在收获季末所做的事。这大概是一年中最适合欢喜的时刻吧？我想是的。冬天休整的日子即将到来，而在春季耕种、夏季劳作以使庄稼成熟，需要付出大量艰辛的努力。在一切劳苦之后，迎来了欢喜快乐的时刻。主为祂的子民预备了美好的假期。

Ezra Reads the Law of God

I want you to turn now to the book of Nehemiah. The end of verse 73 in chapter 7 says:

现在请大家翻到尼希米记。第七章第七十三节的末尾说：

[Nehemiah 7:73 NKJV]

So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the Nethinim, and all Israel dwelt in their cities. When the seventh month came, the children of Israel were in their cities.

于是祭司、利未人、守门的、歌唱的、民中的一些人、尼提宁，并以色列众人，都住在自己的城里。到了七月，以色列人住在自己的城里。

What we're going to read now is what happened in Nehemiah's day in the seventh month, which was the month of the Feast of Tabernacles—a time when all the people got together for seven days to rejoice at the end of harvest.

我们接下来要读的，是尼希米时代在七月发生的事。七月是过住棚节的月份，也就是百姓在收获季结束时聚集在一起欢庆七天的日子。

[Nehemiah 8:1-3 NKJV]

¹ Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel. ² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. ³ Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

¹到了七月，以色列人住在自己的城里。那时，他们如同一人聚集在水门前的宽阔处，请文士以斯拉将耶和華藉摩西传给以色列人的律法书带来。²七月初一日，祭司以斯拉将律法书带到听了能明白的男女会众面前。³在水门前的宽阔处，从清早到晌午，在众男女和一切听了能明白的人面前读这律法书。众民侧耳而听。

What would you think of something like that? All the people got together—how many would that be? Many thousands of people. And they stood together in some open plaza. Ezra read from the Book of the Law in the open square in front of the Water Gate, and he read from morning until midday.

对于这样的场面，你们会怎么想呢？所有人都聚集在一起——那得有多少人？成千上万的人！他们一同站在宽阔的广场上。以斯拉在水门前的广场上宣读律法书，从清早一直读到中午。

How many hours would that be? Maybe two or three hours. What would you do if you were standing, listening to the Bible being read for two or three hours? I think I probably would be looking for a place to sit down! Maybe in this open area there were some stones, or somebody would bring along a chair to let people listen to the reading of the Law for those hours.

那得有多少个小时？大概两三个小时。如果你站着听别人读两三个小时的圣经，你会怎么样？我想我大概会想找个地方坐下来！也许在那片开阔地有一些石头，或者有人自带了椅子，好让人坐着听律法的宣读。

It was a unique time. I only experienced it once. We were here at an evening meeting on Sunday night many years ago. The preacher was our father. He started his sermon by saying, "I'd like to read this evening," and he started to read about the dedication of the temple that Solomon had built. And he kept on reading! He didn't just read a few verses as an introduction; he kept on reading the story of the dedication of the temple for about an hour and forty-five minutes, and then he said, "Now we'll close in prayer."

那是一段非常独特的经历。我只经历过一次。很多年前的一个主日晚上，我们在这里聚会，讲道人是我们的父亲。他在开始讲道时说：“今晚我想读一些经文。”然后他就开始读所罗门建造圣殿并献殿的记载。他就一直读下去！他不仅读几节经文作引言，而是把整个献殿的记载读了一个小时四十五分钟，然后说：“现在我们做结束祷告。”

Do you think that would have been a good sermon? The answer is yes, it was a good sermon! It was all straight from the Bible; he just read what the Bible said. That's what Ezra did. Ezra was reading from the Bible from morning until midday.

你认为这是一篇好的讲道吗？答案是：是的，这是一篇极好的讲道！因为全是直接来自圣经的话语，圣经怎么说，他就怎么读。以斯拉所做的也是如此。以斯拉从清早到中午一直在宣读圣经。

[Nehemiah 8:4-8 NKJV]

⁴ So Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose; and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaijah, Urijah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah; and at his left hand Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people stood in their place. ⁸ So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.

⁴ 文士以斯拉站在为这事特备的木台上。玛他提雅、示玛、亚奈雅、乌利亚、希勒家和玛西雅站在他的右边；毗大雅、米沙利、玛基雅、哈顺、哈拔大拿、撒迦利亚和米书兰站在他的左边。⁵ 以斯拉站在众人以上，在众人眼前展开这书。他一展开，众民就都站起来。⁶ 以斯拉称颂耶和华至大的神；众民都举手应声

说：“阿们！阿们！”就低头，面伏于地，敬拜耶和华。⁷ 耶书亚、巴尼、示利比、雅悯、亚谷、沙比太、荷第雅、玛西雅、基利提、亚撒利雅、约撒拔、哈难、毗莱雅和利未人，使百姓明白律法；百姓都站在自己的地方。⁸ 他们清清楚楚地念神的律法书，讲明意思，使百姓明白所念的。

This is the time just before the great Feast of Tabernacles. Ezra read, and on his right hand and on his left hand were many of the great men of God in his day; he wasn't alone. The congregation is there at the end of harvest time, listening from morning until midday, and he read in such a way that they heard **distinctly**.

这是在伟大的住棚节前夕。以斯拉宣读律法，在他左右两旁站着当时许多属神的领袖，他不是孤身一人。会众在收获季结束时聚集在那里，从早晨听到了中午，以斯拉宣读得非常**清楚**，使他们都能听清。

That is the responsibility of the preacher: he is to preach in such a way that people hear distinctly. "I heard every word you said"—that is what the preacher should hear. The preacher's responsibility is to make clear the sense and help them to understand the reading. Ezra read it and explained it as he was going; he made sure everybody heard and understood. And the Levites in the audience helped the people to understand the Law.

这正是讲道人的职责：他讲道要讲得清清楚楚，让人能听得分明。“我听清了你讲的每一个字”——这是讲道人应当听到的反馈。讲道人的责任就是讲明意思，使人明白所念的。以斯拉一边读一边解释，确保每个人都听懂了；而在会众中的利未人也帮助百姓明白律法。

Have any of you ever studied the sermons of Billy Graham? Billy Graham was an amazing man; he preached to more people than anyone has ever preached to in the history of the world. What was very outstanding about Billy Graham's sermons? They were **clear**. You listened to him, and you understood what he was saying. Make sure that when you tell people about Jesus, you are clear. Don't leave them confused; explain what you are talking about.

你们有人研究过葛培理（Billy Graham）的讲道吗？葛培理是一位了不起的人，在世界历史上，他向之讲道的人数超过了任何人。葛培理的讲道最突出的特点是什么？就是**清晰**。你听他讲道，就能明白他所讲的。当你们向人传讲主耶稣时，一定要讲得清清楚楚。不要让他们感到困惑，要把你讲的内容解释明白。

The Joy of the LORD

In those days, Nehemiah was the governor and Ezra was the priest; the two of them were basically leading the people.

在那个时代，尼希米是省长，以斯拉是祭司，他们两位带领着百姓。

[Nehemiah 8:9-10 NKJV]

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

⁹ 省长尼希米和作祭司的文士以斯拉，并教训百姓的利未人，对众民说：“今日是耶和华你们神的圣日，不要悲哀哭泣。”这是因为众民听见律法书上的话都哭了；¹⁰ 又对他们说：“你们去吃肥美的，喝甘甜的，有不能预备的就分给他，因为今日是我们主的圣日。你们不要忧愁，因靠耶和华而得的喜乐是你们的力量。”

What is the response when you read the Law in the Bible? Have you ever read the Bible and said, "Oh no, that's what God wants, and I haven't done that! I've got a big problem. The Lord says if you don't do this, you're in trouble"? Some of the people began to weep when they heard the Law of God. And so Nehemiah and Ezra said, "Do not mourn nor weep."

当你读到圣经中的律法时，会有什么反应？你是否曾读圣经时心里一惊：“糟糕，这是神要我做的，我却做不到！我有大麻烦了。主说如果不这样做，就会遭殃”？当百姓听见神的律法时，都开始哭泣。于是尼希米和以斯拉对他们说：“不要悲哀哭泣。”

You have two things going on here: first, the harvest has come in—it is the time of harvest, a time of rejoicing. Second, you read the Law of God, and the Law of God says you are wrong, you've made mistakes, you've done things wrong. So what do you do? You put the two together! You say, "God is good; He has told us to do this, but He has also promised to forgive." Instead of sorrowing over the bad things you've heard, you rejoice because God's promises assure you that He can forgive you and give you good things.

这里有两件事同时发生：一方面，庄稼已经收割进仓，这是收获的季节，是欢喜的时刻；另一方面，你读到神的律法，律法指明你错了、你犯了罪、你做得不对。那你该怎么办？把这两件事结合起来！你说：“神是良善的；祂指示我们当行的道，但也应许赐下赦免。”因此，不要只为你听到的过犯而忧伤，乃要因神的应许而欢喜，因为神必赦免你，并赐福与你。

If all you had was the Law of God, you would cry. But because you have the promises of God and all the good things He has done for you, you rejoice! When does the Christian rejoice? **All the time.** He rejoices when things have gone well, and he rejoices when things are bad, because the promises of God are that God is going to make them better.

如果你只有神的律法，你就会哭泣；但因着神的应许以及祂过去为你所做的一切美事，你应当喜乐！基督徒应当何时喜乐？**时时喜乐**。顺境时要喜乐，逆境时也要喜乐，因为神的应许必使万事互相效力。

A friend said to me a few weeks ago, "Harold, there's nothing wrong with me that the Rapture isn't going to cure." That is wonderful! They read the Bible, the Bible says you are wrong, but Jesus offers forgiveness. So you mourn, but then you believe Him, and then you rejoice—and rejoice, and rejoice, and rejoice!

几周前一位朋友对我说：“哈罗德，我身上的任何毛病，没有什么是在被提时治不好的。”这太美妙了！圣经显明我们的过犯，但主耶稣赐下赦免。所以你先是痛悔，随后信靠祂，接着便是喜乐——喜乐，再喜乐，持续不断地喜乐！

The theme is this: God is good. He has really been good to me; He will really be good to you. Rejoice! Find out what the problem is, take His yoke upon you, rest in that, and rejoice in all that God is doing and is going to do!

主题就是：神是良善的。祂对我真好，祂对你也必定真好。欢喜吧！看清问题所在，负祂的轭，在祂里面得安息，并因神正在成就和将要成就的一切而欢喜！

What does verse 10 end with? It says:

第十节的末尾是怎么说的？经上说：

[Nehemiah 8:10 NKJV]

"Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

“你们不要忧愁，因靠耶和华而得的喜乐是你们的力量。”

This is where we are today. We say, "Lord, You've really been good to me; You took my burden and You set me free!" What did Paul and Silas do when they were in prison in Philippi? They sang! Why? Because the joy of the Lord was their strength, and God delivered them and led many others to salvation.

这就是我们今天的光景。我们说：“主啊，您对我真好；您卸去我的重担，使我得自由！”保罗和西拉在腓立比的监狱里做了什么？他们唱诗赞美神！为什么？因为靠耶和华而得的喜乐是他们的力量。神不仅释放了他们，还带领了许多人得救。

Closing Prayer

Lord, we are thankful that You are a good God, and we praise Your name. Bless us today and help us. We give thanks to You for Your kindness, and we pray and give thanks in Jesus' name. Amen.

主啊，我们感谢您，因为您是良善的神。我们赞美您的圣名。求您今日赐福我们、帮助我们。我们为您的慈爱献上感恩。奉主耶稣基督的名祷告与感恩，阿们。