



MICHAEL JR. January 14, 2018

Its Game Time: Jeremiah 29:11 John 10:27 & Revelation 3:20

Icebreaker: Michael Jr. began today's message addressing how a certain behavior in church is viewed among some people. That it isn't right or respectful to bring humor into God's church. To which he replied, "what good father does not desire to hear the laughter of his children"? What are some other behaviors you or others have viewed as wrong, or disrespectful in a church setting, and what arguments have been used to support, challenge or change your own opinions on them?

Encouragement:

To deliver a successful joke a comedian starts with the "set up" to get his hearers thinking along the direction he wants them to go. To be successful people we often try to get others (along with our own time, talent and treasure) to help us along the direction we want to go. To be successful Christians who and what can we look for to help us along the direction God wants us to go?

The successful joke requires a "punch line" or a change in its direction. To be a successful person also requires a change in direction from fulfilling our own desires to fulfilling God's desires. What changes in our own directions might be necessary for God's desires to be successful?

Scripture: After the set up, the punch line or change in direction of a joke reveals the totality of the joke, fulfills its purpose, and brings joy to the giver and the hearer. Our Father has or is providing the "set up" in our lives - Jeremiah 29:11, to fulfill His purpose for our lives - John 10:27 so that we may receive the joy that results from it - Revelation 3:20. What other verses of scripture come to mind that demonstrate God has revealed our purpose, will fulfill that purpose, and receive the joy the Giver intended for us?

Prayer: If our Father has not yet revealed His purpose for your life, pray for that now. Pray for it daily and with an intense desire to know the answer. Look to your past. What are your passions, what hardships have you been through, what resources of time treasure and talent has He given you?

If your "not ready" for our Father access to every room in "your house" pray that He gives you the courage to trust Him fully that He can, will and wants to clean it out for you far better than you ever could.

If our Father has not changed the direction of your life from self-fulfillment to selfless-fulfillment, pray for that now, daily, and urgently.

If you are a "hovering" servant because our Father is not given you "marching instructions" pray that He opens your eyes, ears, and heart that you can hear Him clearly. Know that He IS ALWAYS at work around you, and IS inviting you to join Him in His work. Looking to His Word, His church, His Spirit, Prayer, and even circumstances. Where these all agree you can know it is Him speaking.

Next Steps: As soon as you've heard from our Father what He wants you to do it's GO TIME. The time between that comand and our action is the devil's time. How much time will you give him?

Quote: "How you do anything is how you do everything" don't just do (something) do (the right thing)" and "tithing is not giving, it's not stealing" Michael Jr.

Memory Verse: Hosea 6:6 For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

Notes:
