

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
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Deuteronomy 5:12-15
June 6, 2021

Observe the Sabbath. What does that mean for us?

- What do we do with this Sabbath Day Commandment?
 - ♦ There it is in the revered 10 Commandments - even our courthouses in our land.
 - ♦ Should we start worshipping only on the 7th day, as some do?
 - ♦ Some say, *No! Sunday is the Christian Sabbath - a day of Holy Obligation.*
 - ♦ It's hard to imagine, but there was a time when only *essential businesses* were open on Sunday. I remember that. I guess that makes me officially *old*.
 - ♦ Did your family observe the *Sabbath* - Sunday morning in Church - the rest of the day: family day at the grandparents? Some - church Sunday evening.
 - ♦ One Sunday, when my grandmother was a young girl, she decided to sew clothes for her doll. When her mother saw that, she grabbed the cloth, needle and thread and threw everything in the stove. *It's a sin to work on the Sabbath.*
 - Shared to illustrate the confusion and guilt-ridden zeal for this commandment

Observe the Sabbath. What does that mean for us?

- ❖ *Jesus, help us understand how we are to Observe the Sabbath!*
 - Context, context, context. The 10 commandments - God's Covenant with Israel
 - ♦ This Covenant was their caretaker/guardian until the Messiah came.
 - ♦ Jesus fulfilled all Law. The torn temple curtain declared that Covenant was done.
 - ♦ ¹⁶ *Therefore, do not let anyone judge you in regard to food or drink, or in regard to a festival or a New Moon or a Sabbath day.* ¹⁷ *These are a shadow of the things that were coming, but the body belongs to Christ.* Colossians 2
 - Today's Gospel - Jesus offers insights about the purpose of the Sabbath Day.
 - ♦ Sinners **obsessed** with rules focus on surface obedience and **miss** God's point.
 - ♦ God: *You are not to do any regular work...* People: What's the definition of *work*?
 - To the Pharisee's harvesting grain for personal consumption was forbidden.
 - Orthodox Jewish neighbors - starting a car or turning on a light switch = *work*
 - ♦ Jesus: the Sabbath was made for people's benefit - not to burden with hunger
 - The Pharisees were not *observing the Sabbath*. They abused it. Missed the point.
- ❖ Luther's Small Catechism: *What does this mean... for New Testament believers?*
 - Why did Luther include the 10 Commandments if they belong to Israel?
 - Each commandment reflects God's holy unchanging will for all people of all time.
 - ♦ All restated directly in the New Testament **except this commandment.**
 - ♦ Still the heart of this commandment is taught in the New Testament
 - Luther captures it: *We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.*
 - Nothing there about *a day* or *no work*. Just our source of our Sabbath rest.
 - Where is this found in our text and the New Testament? - Thanks for asking!
 - ♦ *Remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out from there with a strong hand and an outstretched arm.*
Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the day of rest.

- Every Sabbath - day to call to mind *how they got here* - the saving work of their God - and *who they are* - the people of Yahweh, claimed by him.
 - *The LORD* rescued them from a life of no rest under the Egyptian taskmasters.
 - The words *the LORD your God* became their rest, their Source of every blessing, and protection - their purpose, their life, their eternal life.
- ♦ At Mt. Sinai he gave this basis for remembrance: *for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. In this way the LORD blessed the seventh day and made it holy.*
 - God wasn't tired! He was done creating. Everything was *very good*.
 - The 7th day rest was **the state of his creation** - at rest with God in perfect harmony and peace, no worry, stress, conflict, exhaustion, or frustration.
 - By abandoning their God to be *like god*, Adam and Eve ruined this rest.
 - Naked & exposed, hiding from God, blaming others = rest relinquished
 - All creation ruined under the curse of sin. The need for God's rest was clear.
 - Remember Yahweh's surprise solution! The promised *Seed of the Woman - the Savior* who would rob the Master of Unrest (Satan) by paying for all human rebellion and offering restored rest with God through this redemption.
 - This was the purpose of the Sabbath. Dedicated time to renew rest in Yahweh.
- ♦ It is still God's will for us to regularly gather together to renew our rest in him.
 - ¹⁵ *Let the peace of Christ control your hearts, to which you were also called, in one body. And be thankful.* ¹⁶ *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God.*
- ❖ What wisdom about the Sabbath can be gleaned from our text?
 - Godly wisdom: our broken bodies and minds need rest to be rejuvenated
 - ♦ Those who depend on themselves for survival - work themselves to death.
 - ♦ Those who live for the rest and pleasure of self - die in discontent.
 - What every human needs **above all else** - restored rest with our Creator Father.
 - ♦ Jesus: *I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.* John 14:6
 - ♦ ²⁸ *"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.* Mt 11
 - ♦ Key: Jesus provides **forgiveness** for all our sins. Reflect on the rest it provides.
 - Removes the burden of guilt and its relentless nagging, gnawing, and knocking.
 - We rest assured that God is our God. Our life is in his mighty hands. Protection, provision, etc. Offers rest from worry & fear. Resting secure and safe.
 - The restless struggle with *who am I, why am I here, what is my purpose* is replaced with: *I am a child of God, here to love in his name, headed home.*
 - A Sabbath Day: a day of sacred assembly of God's people. That's still his will.
 - ♦ If you belong to Jesus' flock, you need to flock together around Jesus.
 - ♦ Our rest comes from hearing and sharing God's rest-giving gospel.
 - ♦ It comes as we encourage one another in our common identity and purpose.
 - ♦ It comes as we give and receive love - letting his word dwell richly among us.
 - ♦ God's rest *relieves, refreshes, renews, and restores* our brokenness.
 - ♦ Our Lord knows what we need. We need to recognize that assembling together is sacred time for God to bring us the rest the rest of the world knows nothing about.
 - ♦ It still is God's will that we observe such a Sabbath so he can fill us with his multidimensional, life-giving, and renewing rest - the life we were made for.
 - ♦ Such an observance of God's Sabbath is pure rest - God's rest.