

MESSAGE OUTLINE

SUNDAY, February 19, 2023



CHURCH

הקהילה מתקדמת

10:30am Sunday 13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers

Today's Message: **Sabbath: A Promise We are Invited to Enjoy**
Luke 6: 1-11; Matthew 11: 27-30
Matthew A. Vander Wiele, Ed.D.

Luke 6: 1 – 11 (ESV) On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands. ² But some of the Pharisees said, “Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?” ³ And Jesus answered them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: ⁴ how he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?” ⁵ And he said to them, “The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.” ⁶ On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered. ⁷ And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him. ⁸ But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand, “Come and stand here.” And he rose and stood there. ⁹ And Jesus said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?” ¹⁰ And after looking around at them all he said to him, “Stretch out your hand.” And he did so, and his hand was restored. ¹¹ But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Perhaps the greatest threat to applying truths about biblical spirituality is the busyness that stems from the way we define ourselves in terms of achievements and accomplishments. We live in a future-oriented culture that relates time largely to efficiency and productivity. We are more inclined than ever to use time to accomplish results than to enhance relationships.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
(Matthew 11: 27-30)

Verdict: We seem to be unclear as to what Sabbath is or how to experience it...

1. Define rest and Sabbath and what makes them different

Rest is the ability for an individual to take a break from activities or work, rest by sleeping, or take a holiday due to their completion of a particular task within a particular time.

Rest is a result or by-product of YOUR physical work.

Rest is a verb – to cease work or movement so one can relax, refresh oneself, or recover strength. To stop doing something – Focus on the ceasing of your doing, not emphasis on your being.

- Sabbath: moving from physical rest to entering spiritual rest

Sabbath is a particular time when a Christian experiences the completed work of God that allows her to reflect, remember, confess, restore, worship and “be” essentially complete in her relationship with others and God.

Sabbath includes reflecting a high view of God, a high view of what he has accomplished, a high view of time and relationships with God and man – it is a noun. Sabbath has a focus on the “what would take place now that my work is done.” Focus on the event – Sabbath rest is relational and based on a Person not an action.

- Sabbath is a place, not an action

“The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath” (Mark 2:27)

*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God **finished his work** that he had done, and he **rested** on the seventh day from **all his work** that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all **his work** that he had done in creation. (Genesis 2: 1-3)*

2. Enter Sabbath – Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath – Commandments Slide

- Sabbath: includes a high view of God, His Word and Time

The Sabbath commandment is the only one of the ten commandments given at Creation before any other institution – including marriage. It is commanded before the fall of man. The idea of Sabbath rest was not just for one to experience a proper relationship with God by remembering what he had already done but also to establish a proper balance of respect to creation by the observance of proper duties to fellow people, foreigners, slaves, and animals and even to the land. Sabbath conveys to us the thought that God from the first, set His seal upon “time” as well as His blessing upon matter; and this consecration of the seventh day should serve as the continual reminder that as “the earth is the Lord’s and the fulness thereof,” so time is of the Lord and the opportunities thereof. The Sabbath is the sacrament of time: its rest is the symbol of the consecration of work. - Cambridge

- Only those who believe in God can enter Sabbath... Why?

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden (Matthew 11:28)

Jesus offers spiritual rest to everyone, but they have to accept Him. Sin has disrupted our ability to rest genuinely. That is because proper spiritual rest can only come from the Creator, not the created. The created cannot spiritually rest from his physical work. Proper rest for God’s creation was offered at creation and lost at the fall... Sadly, Christians are missing out on the ‘rest’ they truly desire and genuinely need to experience completeness.

But the first step is coming to Jesus. Do you know the Person who can give you the rest you need? Where are you seeking rest? Who are you seeking rest from?

- Who labors, and who are the heavy laden?
What are they “yoked’ to?

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, (Matthew 11:28)

The words are wide enough to cover every form of human sin and sorrow, but the thought that was most prominent in them at the time was that of the burdens grievous to be borne, the yoke of traditions and ordinances which the Pharisees and scribes had imposed on the consciences of men. – Ellicott’s Commentary

Traditions may or may not be true – but they are practiced as the means to a successful life. Traditions are, at best man-made... and we are yoked them.

What had the Sabbath become? – 40 -1 Melachos – Melachot – Mel – hote - Work

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Ch	Zb	Kd	Mhb	Du	Zr	Mv	Mc
Bo	To	Mi	Lu	Of		Kt	Mk
Go	Mc	Mn	Tz	Tv	Ma	OB	Ma
Or	Po	Ko	Mi	Nt	Tf	Kr	MP
Td	Sc	Mf	Mb	Mi	Mh	Bn	So

- Take my yoke upon you...

Whose traditions are you laboring for? What man-made yokes are you heavy-laden with?

- Sabbath is Jesus inviting you to rest in Him

...for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:28

- What is keeping you from entering Spiritual rest? What yokes and traditions are you building around your ability to rest in Christ?
1. Do you find that you have no time to truly self-reflect, dream, imagine, think, enjoy a good cup of coffee, say I’m sorry or take your mom or dad or loved one out for lunch?
 2. Are work responsibilities, sports, hw, kid’s schedules and extracurricular activities out of control in your life?
 3. Will you look back and regret how you spent your time?
 4. Are you constantly living in the future, anticipating what is next?
 5. Are there other burdens you carry to try to be good enough? Work, Academic, Parental, Social?

6. Are you anxious and fearful?
7. Do your weekends look precisely like your weekdays?
8. Is rest just an action for you to recharge for more work?

Entering into Sabbath... review

1. Sabbath can only be experienced by Christians
2. Jesus is inviting you into His rest; not yours.
3. Most Christians are not practicing Sabbath
4. "Enter into" Sabbath by making a choice to recognize that your own rest from your own work will not fulfill you. You cannot tack on Sabbath to your own work OR rest.
5. Set aside habitual "times" that are not connected to your work, where you can "come into the presence of Jesus". These periods of time can be daily or weekly, but they must be purposeful and, they must be your choice.
6. The devil does not want you to practice Sabbath – He will make this difficult for you and tell you that you do not have "time".
7. Come to Jesus, Give him your burdens, and ask him to give you rest for your soul.

3. **Experience Sabbath... Benefits!**

⁶On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered. ⁷And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him. ⁸But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come and stand here." And he rose and stood there. ⁹And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?" ¹⁰And after looking around at them all he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored. ¹¹But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus. (Luke 6: 6 – 11)

When we enter into Sabbath rest, we can experience the present tense entirely and completely because of what God has done for us and is doing now –

1. We can remember and self-reflect on all that God has done through "His work."
2. We have a high view of time and enjoy time as a gift. Our bodies and minds are one in the present tense with those around us.
3. The past and future can be viewed positively without anxiety and fear.
4. We can confess sin and be restored because we have taken time to contemplate our sin and how we have offended others
 - The Goal of Sabbath is...

The truth of being in a relationship with God and each other results in the worship of our Creator that brings completeness and wholeness to the created – this is Sabbath rest.

We Worship God – True rest for our souls comes from not worshipping our accomplishments but resting in the accomplished work of God

We are complete and fulfilled – The rest we long for is completeness and wholeness – experiencing life completely. No created work or rest can accomplish this.



ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, February 12, 2023

- 1. WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS (Small Groups)**—This Wednesday (1st & 3rd Wednesdays) 7:00-8:15pm.
- 2. GOOD NEWS BOOK FAIR—FEBRUARY 26**—MCA is hosting a book fair and you're invited! Come check out a great selection of books and gifts. There's something for everyone! Join us after church on Sunday, February 26th in the warehouse or shop online at www.GoodNewsBookFair.com/Virtual-Fair. Enter code MCA23 at checkout.
- 3. FISHERS COMEDY & MAGIC—Upcoming Events:** **March 10 & 11** Kay Dodd, The Great Kaplan, Daren Streblov; **May 12** Chris Ruppe, Jonnie W., Mike Hemmelgam; **June 3** Christian Comedian Extravaganza. Purchase tickets at <https://fisherscomedyandmagic.com/>
- 4. LADIES BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY @ 9:30am**—CANCELED THIS WEDNESDAY. But otherwise each Wednesday at Kathy Stump's house (12928 Whitehaven Lane, Fishers). Studying **Psalms** using David Helm's One-to-One method.
- 5. 2023 ONWARD TO JERUSALEM BIBLE STUDY TOUR OCTOBER 20-31, 2023**—Walk where Jesus walked and see the Bible comes alive as Pastor Gary and our good friend Dr. Moshe Loewenthal lead us on this incredible tour. Estimated cost: \$3,950 per person (double occupancy).
- 6. MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT 6-8pm:** Dinner provided.
- 7. HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY**—2nd & 4th Wednesdays 6-8pm at Cynthia Brown's house (14079 Clifton Ct., Fishers).
- 8. SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS**—**High School** (Grades 9-12) June 12-16. **Middle School** (Grades 6-8) June 21-25. See Pastor Jerry for more info.
- 9. PAL ("PARENTS OF ADDICTED LOVED ONES") MEETING**—This is for families of adult children dealing with substance addiction. Every Tuesday night, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Free weekly meetings. Dr. Nancy Smith, facilitator. For more information, contact nancy1108smith@gmail.com or 317-508-8149.
- 10. ONWARD PRAYER RESPONSE CARD ONLINE**—To make it easier for some, you can scan this QR code in order to complete your Prayer Response Card.

