

ENTERING INTO GOD'S REST AS A COMMUNITY

Mathew 11:28-12:14, Mark 2:23-3:6, Hebrews 3:5-4:16

Suggested resource - Jesus the King: Understanding the Life & Death of the Son of God, Tim Keller

I. SABBATH

Sabbath is a near-synonym of Shalom, the Hebrew word for "peace".

Peace - The Hebrew word is shalom (both adjective and substantive), meaning, primarily, "soundness," "health," but coming also to signify "prosperity," well-being in general, all good in relation to both man and God. In early times, to a people harassed by foes, peace was the primary blessing. (from International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia)

Genesis 2:2-3 – The Sabbath established at Creation.

Exodus 20:8-11 – Sabbath observance established in the Ten Commandments

"God rested from all his work" doesn't mean God was tired; He rested because He was utterly satisfied with His work. His work was finished, it was good, and creation experienced Shalom.

Sabbath is about worship and restoration to wholeness – restoring people in relationship to God, each other, and within themselves.

The principle of Sabbath – Jesus calls us to Himself to experience a restoration to Shalom – a restoration to wholeness in every dimension of our lives. Any religious activity that obstructs this Shalom is in opposition to God and must be opposed. Jesus didn't come to reform religion, He came to end it and replace it with Himself.

II. THE INVITATION OF JESUS INTO GOD'S REST

Matthew 11:28-30

Religion versus the Gospel –

- Religion in its various forms says I connect to God by being good, or by achieving a spiritual transformation of consciousness, or by adhering to a strict code of conduct. **Religion is primarily advice.**
- **The Gospel is primarily news** – announcing what God has done to restore us unto Himself and each other, to bring us Shalom, to enable us to enter in the Sabbath rest. **The Gospel is the end of religion.**

III. JESUS, THE LORD OF THE SABBATH

By the 1st Century, the Jewish community had formulated innumerable restrictions and rules of conduct for life under the Mosaic Law, including 2 entire treatises on the details of Sabbath observance. Jesus was frequently in sharp conflict with the religious leaders over this issue.

Matthew 12:1-8 - Jesus gives four principles in response to the Pharisees' condemnation

The story of David and the consecrated bread (1 Samuel 2:6)

- If they're going to condemn Jesus the disciples, they'll need to condemn David too!
- We should emphasize discernment and compassion, not rigid legalism, when applying the commandments of God to people's lives

The priests who break Sabbath in order to facilitate worship

- Just as the priests' duties in Temple surpassed Sabbath rules, Jesus' ministry surpasses the Temple
- Our love and worship of God is far more important than the forms and practices we have developed for the act of worship. "true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks." (John 4: 23)

The Old Testament Prophet's call for Mercy, not religious practice

- This comes up frequently in the Old Testament – 1 Samuel 15:22-23, Psalm 40:6-8, Isaiah 1:11-17, Jeremiah 7:21-23, Amos 5, Hosea 6:6
- Religious rituals are only valuable when they fulfill their purpose – loving God and loving people. Amos 5:21-24

Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath – he is the fulfillment of everything Sabbath means, He is the source of the deep rest Sabbath was always meant to provide

IV. HEALING AND THE SABBATH

Matthew 12:9-12 // Mark 3:3-6

The relation of healing to the principle of Sabbath is so important that Jesus does this 5 different times in the Gospels

- The man with the shriveled hand, Matthew 12:9-12
- The woman crippled by the evil spirit, Luke 13:10-17
- The man with dropsy, Luke 14:1-5
- The man at the pool of Bethesda, John 5:1-18
- The blind man, John 9

Healing is a perfect application of Sabbath – restoring to wholeness

Every time we minister healing (in the fullest sense of the word – spiritual, physical, emotional, relational), we are in a very real way fulfilling the Sabbath

V. ENTERING HIS REST AS A COMMUNITY

Hebrews 4:1-3, 9-11, 16

The exhortation to the community of faith

We should tremble with fear at the prospect that any of us might not enter Jesus' rest, striving that none of us fail to enter.

The provision that empowers us to fulfill the exhortation

With confidence we draw near to the throne of grace where we find empowering grace we need – we preach the Gospel to ourselves and each other; we intercede in powerful prayer for each other; we live a life of Jesus' rest that inspires each other.

NOTES:

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We're so glad you joined us today! We'd LOVE for you to **fill out the green Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our **teammates in a Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information.

Feel free to **grab some food or coffee** out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our Kids on Mission classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a **faithful servant** behind each of those examples. By giving your time and talent on Sundays, you're **an essential part** of helping others meet Jesus, and serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! Fill out a connection card or visit the **Connection Booth** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll **build friendships**, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity should never be fueled by obligation or guilt; it should be motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call Life Mission your Home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give or mail a check to our PO Box. **Thank you so much for your love & support!**

KIDS ON MISSION

Our Kids are incredibly important to us! The Kids on Mission ministry has classrooms for **newborns - 6th grade** & is passionately overseen by **Audra Napolitano**. Please Visit lifemissionchurch.com/blog/kids to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart and his walkthrough of our curriculum.

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our Junior High students (**7th & 8th graders**) worship with the adults, and then head to their class for the rest of service. We challenge them to **dig deeper into what they learned on Sunday** throughout the week.

Our **High School students** stay in the adult service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. For questions on our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at hbarnes5@yahoo.com or **John Hawthorne** at hawthorne-john@hotmail.com

SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Matthew 11:28-29**, and discuss these phrases:

"Come to me"

What does that mean, really: is it simply believing the Gospel or something more than that? In what ways have you come to Jesus? _____

"All who labor and are heavy laden"

In what way do people labor, and how are they "heavy laden"? _____

"I will give you rest"

What does the rest of Jesus look like? How have you experienced that rest? _____

Pastor and author **Timothy Keller** wrote: "Why does Jesus become angry with the religious leaders? Because the Sabbath is about restoring the diminished. It's about replenishing the drained. It's about repairing the broken. To heal the man's shriveled hand is to do exactly what the Sabbath is all about. Yet because the leaders are so concerned that Sabbath regulations be observed, they don't want Jesus to heal this man— an incredible example of missing the forest for the trees... Their hearts are as shriveled as the man's hand. They're insecure and anxious about the regulations. They're tribal, judgmental, and self-obsessed instead of caring about the man. Why? Religion." (Jesus the King: Understanding the Life and Death of the Son of God, pp. 36-37).

In what ways have you seen religion actually get in the way of people entering in to Jesus' rest? _____

In what ways can we as a Gospel Community keep religious legalism from creeping in? _____

Read **Hebrews 3:5-4:16**, paying attention to all the references to "rest"

Discuss the exhortation of **4:1** – taking care that none of us fail to enter that rest: _____

Discuss the provision that empowers us to fulfill the exhortation in **4:16** How does empowering Grace practically enable us to help each other enter Jesus' rest? _____



LIFE MISSION
CHURCH

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Equipping a Gospel-Centered Community in the Word of God,
To Live Out a Gospel-Centered Life Mission to the Glory of God.

With Special Guest:

Pastor Ron Ohst, Grace Chapel of the Coast



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March 8, 2015

9AM & 11AM SERVICES

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