

Remember the Sabbath

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people will go out and gather the amount for each day, so that I may test them. Will they walk in my law or not? On the sixth day they will prepare what they bring in, and it will be twice as much as they gather every other day."

*"Six days you will gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any."
Exodus 16:4-5, 26*

God spoke all these words: "I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you from the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery."

*"Remember the Sabbath day to set it apart as holy. For six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; on it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, or your male servant, or your female servant, or your cattle, or the resident foreigner who is in your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that is in them, and he rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy."
Exodus 20: 1-2, 8-11*

I. The House of Slavery

"I am the Lord your God who brought you from the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery."

- I am not the Egyptian gods. You are no longer a slave.
- House of slavery — They were not just slaves in the 9-5 hours. Their identity as slaves trickled into their homes, the place where you develop your core identity and *should* experience nourishment and care.
- The giving of the law at Mt. Sinai is best understood through the lens of a wedding ceremony.
- In Egypt they were slaves but God is asking Israel to be His bride.
- God didn't say if you follow my law, then I will save you from Egypt. He first saved them then He gave them the law to point them to the abundant life as His people. God has given them a new identity and in the law He is teaching them how to walk that identify out.

II. Finished and Ceased

The heavens and the earth were completed with everything that was in them. By the seventh day God finished the work that he had been doing, and he ceased on the seventh day all the work that he had been doing. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy because on it he ceased all the work that he had been doing in creation. (Genesis 2:1-3)

- God ceases because he was finished. What does it mean to finish and cease? How do we cease if we are never finished?

III. Wholeness and Completeness: The 7th Day

God called the light "day" and the darkness "night." There was evening, and there was morning, the first day. (Genesis 1:5)

— After every day of creation there is the repeating refrain "morning and evening" as a conclusion of that day. We expect to hear that on the 7th day but the writer leaves the day without conclusion as a way to say this scene was supposed to continue on — God dwelling among his beautiful creation in a shared partnership with the family he had made as His image, and it was to be very good.

— Sabbath is marked by the number seven which in the mind of a Hebrew represented wholeness or completeness. God gave Israel seven holidays a year. Every seventh year they had a sabbath year, and after seven of these seven year periods they had the Year of Jubilee.

— Jubilee is "*an economic, cultural, environmental and communal reset, when the land and people rest, and all those who are in slavery are set free to return to their communities... Jubilee was a recovery of identity, especially for the poor. It is not about simply correcting economic problems, which is very important; not even just caring for the poor because they're poor; but it is restoring identity...*" (quote by CB Samuel)

— Through cyclical holidays God is training Israel to look toward a day of ultimate wholeness. A coming day of true rest, freedom, forgiveness and restored identity.

IV. "Remember the Sabbath"

— To remember is the opposite of dismember. In remembering the Sabbath we are walking out the mending of a Sabbath day that was broken in Genesis 3. Jesus is our example.

Jesus was going through the grain fields on a Sabbath, and his disciples began to pick some heads of wheat as they made their way. So the Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is against the law on the Sabbath?" He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions were hungry— how he entered the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the sacred bread, which is against the law for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to his companions?" (Mark 2:23-26)

— Jesus gives us 3 images of law breaking through eating. (1. Jesus with his disciples grazing grain. 2. David in the tabernacle eating the holy bread and sharing with his men. 3. Eve in the garden eating from the forbidden Tree of Knowing Good and Evil and sharing it with Adam.)

— Eve, by her own wisdom, apart from God, with the blessing of the serpent ate and shared death with Adam.

— David, in the holy place, in the presence of God, took holy bread and shared life with his men.

Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath. For this reason the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27-28)

— Jesus is asking, do you know who **I am**? I am LORD of the Sabbath. Do you know who **you are**? Those in Christ are no longer slave to another with enmity between us and our creator, we are bride with a Sabbath inheritance that has been cracked wide open for us to steward today.

Then Jesus entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched Jesus closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they could accuse him. So he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Stand up among all these people." Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath, or evil, to save a life or destroy it?" But they were silent. After looking around at them in anger, grieved by the hardness of their hearts, he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. (Mark 3:1-5)

— Remember the trees of Eden? Do you know what leads to life and what leads to death? One tree looks good but ends in death, the other looks like death but ends in life.

— Jesus knows what Sabbath is about. He is bringing an ultimate Sabbath and it's what all of his healing ministry was unto. For Jesus, Sabbath looks like a man being healed.

— What will God have "remembering the Sabbath" look like for you? For your community?

V. Provision for the 7th Day

"Six days you will gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any." (Exodus 16:26)

— On the 7th day God did not provide mana. Their rest was to be sustained by what God provided previously. There is a coming day where those who have taken God's provision will have what they need. We are living in the 6th day but the 7th day is coming. Jesus is the provision that will carry us through it.

Closing questions:

1. What does it look like to have the mind set of a slave?
2. How can you work *and* rest from the mind set of bride/steward?
3. In remembering Sabbath how will you image Jesus in the healing of a broken world?
4. To remember the Sabbath is to acknowledge that a holy day is coming. How does the provision of Jesus on the cross provide you with rest that is unattainable any other way?
4. How will you share holy bread with those around you?