

Our Mission:

*To share Christ with the world
and grow disciples for Jesus*



Loving God and Loving Neighbor as Ourselves

Background:

The Sabbath was a principle 'outward sign' by which Jews distinguished themselves amongst other nations in the empire. Keeping the Sabbath was more than a matter of religious piety, but a matter of justice as well. Sabbath protected the marginalized from having to labor every day of the week. It is for this reason Jesus challenges the Pharisees. As a matter of justice, as he declared back in his inaugural address in Luke 4, should not the hungry be fed and those who have been injured have aid offered to them? As did the prophets from long ago, Jesus is critical of a religion that has lost its soul.

Theology Connection:

We understand what happens when boundaries are erased from the landscape. Some of us grew up in a day when Sunday Sabbath was truly a day of rest. As the band Rascal Flats sings in their song, Mayberry, 'Sunday is now just another day for progress.' Yet, how do we live in the spirit of Sabbath without it bearing the weight of the law that would choke us?

Application:

Jesus was not against the concept of keeping the Sabbath holy, his concern was that holiness cannot be separated from the doing of God's will, the doing of what we acknowledge to be good as well as just. As we continue to live within the restrictions of this pandemic, and some of our social gatherings have been curtailed, does this give you an opportunity to reorient your schedule to reflect more closely the will of Christ? Have you taken advantage of this season of life to find ways to better embody the values of God's Kingdom?

The Text: Luke 6: 1-16

¹One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels.

²Some of the Pharisees asked, "Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

³Jesus answered them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?"

⁴He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions."

⁵Then Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

⁶On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled.

⁷The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath.

⁸But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Get up and stand in front of everyone." So, he got up and stood there.

⁹Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?" ¹⁰ He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was completely restored.

¹¹ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.

¹² One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray and spent the night praying to God.

¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:

¹⁴ Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew,

¹⁵Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot,

¹⁶Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

ADULT

Many would argue with some justification that we have lost the sense of Sabbath in our lives. Many would suggest that we live a 24/7 lifestyle that never allows us a moments rest. Are you happy with how you attempt to bring balance to your life? Are you happy with the opportunities to nurture your spirit? Do you wish to make some changes, not because of some demand but out of a heart-felt desire, in the way you honor the Sabbath and keep it holy?

YOUTH

Please read Luke 6:1-16

This shows Jesus going against the grain.

What is your understanding of Sabbath? Do you keep the Sabbath in your family?

This is a season of family and traditions...What are some of your family traditions?

Do you think we should keep Sabbath in our culture today? What would be some challenges in doing so?

Finally, I would like you to think about your relationship with God. What are you doing to grow your relationship?

Let us pray,

Dear God, thank you for our family and our traditions that we hold so dear to our hearts. Please help us stay in relationship with you and with each other. Amen.

CHILDREN'S

Read and Summarize:

One Sabbath day, Jesus was in the synagogue teaching. There was a man there who had a crippled hand, everyone wanted to see if Jesus would heal this man. Jesus said to the man with the crippled hand, "get up and stand before these people." So, the man stood there. Then Jesus said to the people, "I ask you, which is it right to do on Sabbath day: to do good, or to do evil? Is it right to save a life or to destroy one?" He then asked to see the man's crippled hand. As the man outstretched his hand, it was completely healed! The teachers and Pharisees became very angry with Jesus, because He had performed a miracle on the Sabbath day. They did not like Jesus healing someone on the Sabbath because it was against their teachings, and Jesus was not submitting to it.

Think:

1. Why do we need rest?
2. Did you know that one of the Ten Commandments is to rest on the Sabbath Day?
3. What is the Sabbath Day for you and your family? (typically, Sunday)

Remember:

God made the Sabbath Day, the day of rest, to enjoy all that he had worked so hard for within the week of creating the earth. This day was set apart from all the others!

Pray:

Dear Lord,

Thank You for giving us a day of rest to worship You. Help us to keep Your commands, and to be more like You.
Amen!