

Luke 6:1-16

About the Sabbath and working/healing on the Sabbath.

- 1st story - **Luke 6:1-5** - is about pulling grain from the fields and eating it, which would be considered work on the Sabbath.
 - X says the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath, this is a focus question.
 - So are you focused on the laws and rules of Sabbath,
 - or are you focused on the one who has provides the Sabbath for you.
 - Participating and caring for God's Creation

- 2nd story - **Luke 6:6-11** - is about X healing the man whose right hand was withered, which is interesting because that means the man can't work.
 - But when X heals him, he's able to work.
 - And X heals on the Sabbath.
 - X says "which would you rather do, save a life or destroy it on the Sabbath? To do good or to do harm on the Sabbath?"
 - Celebrating and caring for God's People

- The last section - **Luke 6:12-16** - is X choosing the 12 disciples.
 - It good and reasonable to have this story tied in with the Sabbath, which is the 4th commandment, because the Sabbath is about caring about God's creation and the people of God's creation.
 - God's care for us
 - Abraham Heschel says "*The seventh day is a **palace in time** which we build. It is made of soul, of joy and reticence.*"
 - From
<http://21essays.blogspot.com/2013/05/abraham-joshua-heschel-and-sabbath-its.html>

- The Sabbath is a commentary on the economy of consumption
 - Protestants have let the Sabbath command drop, even though we hold up all the others as reasonable and acceptable.
 - Why? I think it is an economic concern, first and foremost
 - Sabbath, though, arises out of an economic problem
 - Slavery and production
 - the Hebrews enslaved by the Pharaoh as an example of the economy of consumption,
 - **Exodus 5**, when Pharaoh commands the Hebrew slaves to acquire their own straw to make the bricks, while increasing their expected production.
Ex 5:4, 7-8, 13, 14, 17-18
 - All the while, Moses just wants to take the Hebrews out into the wilderness to worship, which now becomes a form of rest.

- But economies like this one (Exodus and ours by extension) don't allow for rest, and make it hard to rest.
 - We pay for this lack of rest, personally and as a nation
 - ◆ Education, flow of money, etc.
 - God brings to the Hebrews REST from this kind of consumptive work
 - 4th Commandment - ***Deut 5:12-15***
 - *Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God you shall not do any work-you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.*
 - The example of the Manna, which is available in the morning and is gone at night EXCEPT for the Sabbath, when you collect it ON FRIDAY and it lasts for 2 days.
 - ***Exodus 16:13-16, 23-26***
 - Christ is referred to in the gospel of John as the BREAD OF HEAVEN.
 - ◆ ***John 6:51***
 - ◆ Because the Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath
 - Following Christ becomes all about always remembering the Sabbath EVEN when doing our work.
 - ◆ Which has consequences because it runs directly counter to the work of the world.
 - ◆ Gospel of Matthew when Christ says my burden is light and my work is easy.
 - ◆ ***Matthew 11:28-30***
- There is a difference between obligation and celebration.
 - Abraham Heschel again says, *To observe the seventh day does not mean merely to obey or to conform to the strictness of a divine commandment. To observe is to celebrate the creation of the world and to create the seventh day all over again, the majesty of holiness in time, a day of rest, a day of freedom, a day which is like a lord and king of all other days, a lord and king in the commonwealth of time.*
 - <http://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/judaism/2000/08/a-palace-in-time.aspx#1zOrZ2MoUKR6ArH1.99>

- Sabbath is not about *not working*.
- Instead, Working is influenced and always leads toward the Sabbath because Sabbath is about caring for the things of God.
 - Sabbath is for humankind, not humankind for the Sabbath
 - Only this commandment and honoring family are in the positive

How is this personal for you?

I don't think I do well participating in the practice of the Sabbath seriously. (time organization, etc.) For me it requires choosing a day and not doing something church related, but every day I do something church related.

And if I am Incapable of taking a whole day to celebrate the Sabbath, that is indicative of a problem.

So it may be important to have some exacting practice to support honoring the Sabbath.

10 Commandments actually matter more, rather than less, because our focus is on living from the presence of Christ and the Holy Spirit within us. *That commitment* naturally leads to enacting the 10 commandments.

- ❖ What would that day, Sabbath day, look like to you?
 - Hiking, walking, reading fiction, a day focused on God.
- ❖ Sabbath is not supposed to be an obligation.
 - Gospel of **Mark 2:27** - "*the Sabbath was made for man. Not man for the Sabbath.*"
 - *...a heightened Sabbath consciousness can finally call US back to a life of fairness, harmony, and justice*
 - Observing Sabbath by Barry Cytron
 - which means setting aside the day is a gift for and to humankind.
 - The Sabbath day is FOR us not the other way around.
- ❖ **What do you want people to leave with? A desire for rest. To want the Sabbath. It's not a day when we allow animals to go hungry, people don't get fed. It's about the care for God that's been shared with us is shared either the creation God has shares with us.**