

Honoring the Lord's Day

Isaiah 58:13-14

Scripture: Leviticus 10:3 "...It is what the Lord spoke, saying, By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored..."

Introduction:

When I was a little kid my dad started going to Dove Creek, Colorado every year deer hunting. I can still remember missing him so much while he was gone. I can still remember wondering about what he was doing at each moment. Had a bear eaten him or had he climbed a great rock cliff to find his way or had he landed the all time worlds record mule tale buck.

This deer hunting trip wasn't just something that happened if there was time and it was convenient. My dad planned all year long waiting for the blessed event to arrive. He, with a gleam of anticipation in his eye, cleaned his gun several times during the year. He talked about these trips with anyone that would listen. He called his buddy Leroy often as they worked out details for the trips and talked about hunts they had already been on. Did I mention the pictures....talk about excitement he would get out pictures of trope deer and show them off like pictures of children.

And when he called the little motel that he stayed at every year and spoke to them like they were some long lost family calling them by first name, I knew the time was very close.

Do you have any thing like this in your life? Maybe a annual fishing trip with your dad, maybe a trip to a cabin on a lake somewhere for relaxation? What about four wheeling trips....well the answer is certainly yes, we get excited over various things in our lives.

I want to take a minute to tell you about some people who got just as excited about something in their lives. God's people in the Old Testament got pretty excited about worshipping God. God had given them direction to observe the Sabbath day which was the 7th day of the week when after creation God rested. The Sabbath was a day of rest, celebration, worship, and remembrance of redemption from Egyptian bondage (Deut 5:12-15)

Transitional Statement:

Today the Lord's day has been played down and stripped of importance by the world we live in. Football, hockey, baseball, basket ball games, family gatherings, fishing trips, shopping, work and even sleep has become more important than God. And let me tell you church this is a shameful thing. It not only dishonors our God but it hurts Him as well. I wish this was only a worldly problem but it exists in the church as well. The soul purpose of this lesson today is to remind us that the Lord's Day is of the utmost importance and in fact is sacred.

.....The Sabbath was God's Holy day in the Old Testament

- We are going to see how God felt about His Day in OT
- Understanding He feels the same about the Lord's Day

READ: Isaiah 58:13

*"If because of the Sabbath, you turn your foot
From doing your own pleasure on My holy day,
And call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable,
And honor it, desisting from your own ways,
From seeking your own pleasure
And speaking your own word,*

Lesson:

I. First lets talk about God's Day being Holy

A. Holy Is the Hebrew word ko-desh meaning sacred

1. And sacred has to do with consecration or dedication to God

-I think many people today define sacred from a human standpoint and on what fills their desires.

-Have you seen the insurance commercial lately that talks about the fact that we live in a disposable society with very little commitment or dedication to anything?...If you don't like your job—get a new one, if you don't like your car—get a new one, if you don't like your spouse get a new one.

-People don't want absolutes, in our world, it's the Post-Modern way of thinking.

-They want escape clauses.

2. You see, Dedicated means to set aside for a specific cause.

a. And the cause is worship

-Worship has to do with homage, reverence and adoration of God

-It seems to go without saying that worship is of God, but sometimes people like to worship themselves.

*Worship has to do with an acknowledgement of who God is and what he has done for us.

*Its about:

- Praising His name
- Glorifying and exulting Him
- Recognizing our dependence on Him
- Humbling ourselves before Him
- Being mindful of the sacrifice He made
- Denying / Surrender ourselves
- Love...
- *Consecration and Dedication

b. Did you catch it's a Day of worship

- Not 2 hours
- But 24 hours
- *You might say hey, I only have 2 days off per week to rest.

- God's day is a day of Sacrifice...Romans 12:1
- Giving up time and desires

- It's a day of Offering
- In the OT God expected His people to give 1/10th
- But, as for time it is more.....1/7th
- Ex 20:8-11 6 days has a man to work
- 7th day is holy
- Carved out
- It is to be set aside for God

- Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2..... First day of the week...Sunday

c. It is not to be a day that resembles all the other days of the week

- Not games, TV, lawn mowing etc.

-Its sad when we have more sacred secular things in our lives than religious things.

- God's day is suppose to be Special
- *Special things have some things in common
- *Actively planned for
- Preparation done
- *How did you prepare for worship today...or did you?
- *Dedicated

d. God's day must be Protected from intrusion

-Lets say that out of the blue an unexpected relative shows up to visit and they aren't much on church.....

*Our first response should be sorry that they are going to set at home alone....because we aren't giving up the worship of our God.

-Not willing to give up our God time for anything

3. It all comes down to Desire

*Worship is not because you have to....but because you want to

-Not about duty...but its about devotion

-Some might think if I go to bible class, am worship and pm worship & Weds....then I am a true Christians right

-Others might argue No, only Sundays are commanded

*If you are thinking either way your in a ditch....you need help

*Attendance shouldn't even be a question.....just an acknowledgement that the day I stop attending will be the day I lay in my grave...wouldn't miss it for nothing.

4. Worship should be a habit

-Hebrews 10:25

25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

-My Car has a habitevery time it passes Famous Dave's Barbeque it just turns in there I can't stop the wheel from turning

*Church worship should be a habit for us, something we are so used to we don't even consider anything else.

*Shepherd watching over the flock look for indicators of spirituality and the lack there of and the habit of attendance is a real big hitter.

II. Then, God's Day is to be a Delight

A. Church, I have given great thought to this idea of delighting in God's day.

-And I realized that some of you this morning may not be overjoyed with being here....maybe you worked late, maybe your having difficulties at home, maybe your in a spiritual slump....

-Or maybe you have never felt excited about worshipping God.

-Let me confess, I am adequately unable to explain this.

-I feel this delight but I'm not sure how to tell you about it if you have never experienced it.

B. I think a great way to understand delight in God is to sit and read the book of Psalms and try to catch some of David's spirit.

-A man after God's own heart

-He had a spirit that:

-Caused him to Dance before God

-Caused him to trust in God...Facing a Giant

-Caused him to deeply long to be in God's presence

C. Maybe we could think about Jesus' mother Mary, in Luke 2, and her thoughts and feelings as she Treasured the things of God in her heart.

-I think delight includes treasuring

D. Fundamentally I can tell you that your heart should be glad and excited about God's day.

E. But, I think it is important to note that Delight is not so much a Choice as a result

-Delight comes through relationship with God.

-I look back in my own life and see times when my Christianity was merely academic in nature.....

-Pharisaical

-It was about rules and regulations and law keeping

-It was about appearances etc.

-Well we know enough from NT study to know that God wants our heart. He wants a relationship with us

-And relationship with God comes through Bible study, prayer and meditation

*And outside of these things Delight is impossible.

G. READ

Psalms 42:1-4

I Thirsting for God in Trouble and Exile.

For the choir director. A Maskil of the sons of Korah.

As the deer pants for the water brooks,

So my soul pants for You, O God.

*2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God;
When shall I come and appear before God?
3 My tears have been my food day and night,
While they say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"
4 These things I remember and I pour out my soul within me.
For I used to go along with the throng and lead them in procession to the
house of God,
With the voice of joy and thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.*

H. READ

*Psalms 84:2
2 My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the Lord;
My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.*

*Psalms 84:10
10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand outside.
I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.*

F. Delight isn't something you can fake till you actually feel it.

-But, when you know God deeply
-When you have drank deeply from His well

-An explosion of thoughts and feelings
-Of love and joy beyond measure feels will fill your heart

*Then, Anticipation and excitement happens flowing from
your heart as rivers of living water.

III. Also, God's Day is to be Honored

A. Honor means.....given weight toraised to high esteem

*Lev 10:3 God says "I will be honored"

*How? Here Isaiah tells us 3 things:

1. Desisting from our own way

a. Brethren we have to be careful about doing things our way on
God's day.

b. Our way is:
-Limited at best
-It is of human wisdom
-And frankly is wrong most of the time

c. But it is God's way that we must seek

Isaiah 55:8-9

*8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord.
9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways
And My thoughts than your thoughts.*

*God's ways are perfect

d. Jeremiah 10:23

*23 I know, O Lord, that a man's way is not in himself,
Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.*

2. Not seeking our own pleasures

a. You see, God's day is about God, not about us.

a. God's day is Not about what pleases us.

-God' day is not about entertaining ourselves

-In the past few weeks I can think of at least three church members in different areas of the USA whose churches are in turmoil because church leaders have found it more appealing to entertain people and increase attendance, rather than worship God.

-Some churches have stopped preaching on Sundays and introduced drama in place of God's word.

-Some churches, in our brother hood are bringing in the band, because it appeals to the younger folks and it feels good.....

*Churches are splitting right and left over ungodly desires of the heart.

...Church, God's day is more than a feeling

b. Our Full focus and attention should be on Him

c. Can you imagine saying to your wife I am going to make Saturday your day.....I am going to take you shoppingfor power tools.

-Seeking our own desires has been mentioned twice now

3. Not speaking our words.

-1 Peter 4:11 speak the words of God

-Romans 1:16

*There is no power in our words

* I can stand up here all day long and tell you mushy stories that make your heart warm and tingly....but there is no power in it. The power in God's word

-1 Timothy 3:16

*Inspired by God

-Rev 22:18; 1Cor 4:6; Deut 4:2; Pro 30:6

*Direction not to add to or take away from

-After all God's word is the avenue of faithRomans 10:17

IV. Which leads us to the Consequences of dishonoring God's Day

A. *or death Exodus 31:14

14 'Therefore you are to observe the sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death;

-Nadab and Abihu Lev. 10:1-2

-Now today it may not be physical death but certainly spiritual death

*If you are not giving God honor you are spiritually dying or already dead

-I wonder how many Christians who are not very faithful in honoring the Lord's day realizes that God may be allowing some consequences in their live.

-The opposite is very truehonoring the Lord's day because of desire sends a shower of blessing down on our head

B. We are to be careful how we worship Numbers 28:2

Conclusion:

Isaiah 58:14

*14 Then you will take delight in the Lord,
And I will make you ride on the heights of the earth;
And I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father,
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."*

Have you made God's day sacred

-Dedicated to Him

-Are the fires of devotion burning in your heart

Is God's day a delight in your heart

-Maybe you need to return to the joy of your salvation

Are you honoring God's day