

'THE REST OF THE STORY'

(Going Deeper and Practically Applying Sunday Sermons)

Luke 14:1-25

The Sabbath

(Day of Rest or 7th Day Heresy?)

Disagreement with the religious leaders of Israel about the purpose of the Sabbath was a major contributing factor leading to their hatred of Jesus. From the beginning of His public ministry to the end of it, religious zealots harassed Jesus about His obvious disregard for their stringent rules and regulations about how the 7th day of each week had to be observed (*see Matthew 12:1-14, Mark 3:1-6, Luke 14:1-6, John 9:13-16*).

Jesus lived and died under the Old Testament system of Judaism of which Sabbath observance was certainly an important part. Ceasing from all usual work and manual labor of any sort at the end of the week was mandatory for everyone in Israel (*see Exodus 20:8-11, 35:1-3 Deuteronomy 4:12-15, 15:1-6*). As with the LORD at the end of *creation week* it was to be a blessed time to *rest* (Hebrew word = *shaw-bawth* / to desist from exertion, have repose, relax) and enjoy the *good* (material things made during creation) and the *very good* (creatures and people made on the 6th day or Friday). This weekly discipline (as well as other 7th occasions – the 7th year *sabbaths*, the year of Jubilee, etc.) were also public and outward ways for God's people to maintain their Jewish identity in whatever society they found themselves.

Interestingly, Sabbath-obedience is always stated as *a sign of uniqueness* for Jews individually and the nation of Israel corporately ("*...the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever...*" **Exodus 31:12-18**). Since Jesus was born, lived and died under this Old Testament law He kept the Sabbath, but refused to make it a day of *rules and restrictions* in place of the day of *rest and refreshment* (**Exodus 31:17**) God intended.

As religion usually does now, it also did then - God's simple commands are twisted and complicated, turning them from blessings into burdens. Furthermore, religion then and now finds it impossible to return things back to their original intent once legalistic encrustations have been superimposed on truth.

Following the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, the New Testament era of relationship to God based on faith in Christ alone began (**John 14:6, Romans 10:9-13, Ephesians 2:8-9, etc.**). For all *born-again* followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Old Testament laws for Israel prior to *the cross* is not applicable anymore (**Romans 10:4, Galatians 3:10-14, 22-26; Colossians 2:20-23; etc.**). When the Lord Jesus proclaimed from the cross '*It is finished!*' (**John 19:30**) He was announcing that not only was our salvation finished, but so was the inadequate Old Testament legal system in use until Jesus' work at Calvary rendered it obsolete for all who trust in Him.

Sabbath-keeping is not to be part of the Christian life (**Colossians 2:16-23**). In correction of 7th Day Adventism, that imposes parts of Israel's OT Law on NT believers, scripture refuses to make any particular day of more spiritual value than any other (**Romans 14:5-6**). Even in worship, believers obediently gather on the 1st day of the week (**Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2**) because of Jesus' resurrection, not because it is in any way switching the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.

For Christians today the Sabbath day pictures what he or she has done in coming by faith to Jesus Christ – each believer *rests* by faith in the salvation work Jesus did for us and we *desist* from trying to work for God's gift of grace (**Hebrews 4:9-10**). For true Christians *the Sabbath* is not about a calendar day of the week; it is the Person of Jesus Christ in Whom we trust and rest our case before God for everlasting life. Our Sabbath-rest begins the day we ask Jesus to save us and our Sabbath-rest of faith in Him never ends.

‘Table Talk’ of Jesus’

(Wedding Supper Etiquette – The Biblical Manners of Jesus)

Luke 14:1-25

Shrinking ‘Swollen Guests’ on the Sabbath

(The Sabbath is The Savior & Serving Others)

Luke 14:1-6

The Sabbath Day, Saturday, the 6th day of the week was to be for Israel what the last day of the creation week was for God – a time of rest (no usual work) and refreshment (to review and refresh - enjoy the *very good* things of God (*Genesis 2:1-3 / Exodus 20:8-11*). Although it was permitted to help in unforeseen emergency situations that came up, the Sabbath was not to be used for ordinary tasks that could be done some other time (*see Numbers 15:32-36*). It was always connected to Israel as a special sign of God and His people to pagan nations who never took off a day for rest and refreshment with God. In the *Book of Acts* the early Christians, who were all Israelites, used the Sabbath to witness in the synagogues to their family and friends, plus they also worshiped with their brethren of Sunday as well (*Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2*). This practice has evolved into *the weekend (Saturday and Sunday ‘off’)*. We aren’t obliged to *keep the Sabbath* in NT times (*Colossians 2:16, Romans 14:5-6*), but since most of us get Saturday off, it’s not a bad idea to try to keep it as a day of rest and refreshment by keeping it *very good*, using it for ministry, helping others, and calmly getting ready for Sunday worship and fellowship. Too bad so many Christians spoil *the day of rest* with so many other things and hectic schedules that they aren’t rested or refreshed by it but instead exhausted and worn down, they can’t give the Lord their best worship and ministry on Sunday ☺

- Although we don’t have to *legalistically* keep the Sabbath, how could Christians make better, more spiritual and biblical use of Saturday? Discuss the saying: ‘If you want Christ to be Lord on Sunday, you have to have Him as Lord Saturday night’.
- Discuss how the *puffed up man (dropsy, edema)* being *deflated* by Jesus’ healing touch was a picture of the Pharisees’ pride problem and how to fix it. Do you think that typical organized religion is *puffed up* with *religious pride*? How does this prevent humble worship of the Lord?

Seating ‘Selfless Servants’ at the Wedding Banquet’

(The Seating Arrangement is Based on Humility)

Luke 14:7-14

- How can Jesus’ parable about taking the *lower place* now in order to get a better place *at the table* in the kingdom later, can be applied in our lives and ministries?
- Discuss **vs. 12-14**. How were you able to practically apply these verses this past week? How was it done unto you recently?
- What are some practical ways can we do this better at CBF or in our own daily personal lives?

Summoning ‘Strangers’ to Fill the Savior’s Sanctuary

(The Soliciting of Outsiders to The Savior’s Supper)

Luke 14:15-24

The point of this continuation of Jesus’ extended parable about *the coming wedding feast* is that when the spiritually privileged people begin to make excuses for not being committed to the Lord and His kingdom, God is *angered (v 21)* by their spiritual apathy and withdraws the invitation (*v 24*). Then He extends the invitation to the kingdom to others less privileged who will appreciate the honor and *fill His house (v 23)*.

- The spiritually privileged people the Lord had in mind, at that moment was Israel and Jewish people, who didn’t appreciate their privileged situation (*Romans 9:1-5*). Who would be like that today in Christianity? How do *excuses* for not being committed to Christ or His Kingdom reveal the spiritual condition of one’s heart?
- According to Jesus, how much more time should be wasted on those who make excuses? Talk about where to focus witnessing and discipleship efforts instead of religious people who make up reasons for low or no commitment.
- For us at CBF, who are the *poor, the maimed and the lame and the blind (v 22)* that we must invite to Christ instead of spiritually apathetic religious people? Ideas on doing this on Guam?
- Who are those “*in the highways and hedges*” that we must “*compel to come in, that the Lord’s house may be filled*” (*v 23*)? What are some ideas on how to do this?