

10 - The Fourth Commandment Part 4 - Exodus 20:8-11 - 2014-03-30

Call to Worship: Hebrews 10:19-22

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 10:11-17

Sermon: "The Fourth Commandment Part 4" Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-13

Benediction: Hebrews 10:23-25

INTRODUCTION

Review

1. what the fourth commandment commands, that we may set our heart to obey
2. why the sabbath commandment doesn't feel as strong as the others
3. why we observe the sabbath on the first day of the week

Today we consider what we don't do, and what we do, in keeping the sabbath holy.

Danger! Beware the error of the Pharisees and the New England Puritans!

If you start making rules of what people must do, or of what they must not do on the sabbath day, you may end up ruining sabbath observance in your generation and ruining its reputation in many generations.

In this sermon, let us not work by making lists of rules as to what you may do and may not do on the sabbath.

instead, let's work this way:

God created us; He gave us life; He gave us this amazing world to live in, and all its plants for our food. He gave us six days in which to do our own work, and the one Sabbath day in which to stop that work and observe a day holy unto Him. But in Adam we all sinned against God. We made ourselves sinners, and so became dead in trespasses and sins. And that's how we all were. We loved the world and the things of the world. We hated God and despised His law. We delighted only in ourselves and honored only ourselves. But God loved us while we were His enemies. He loved the world so much that He gave His only-begotten Son. That Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, lived not in sin, as we live, but in perfect obedience, not in hatred, but in perfect love. Then He suffered death by crucifixion, taking the punishment for our sins. He was buried, then on the first day of the week He rose again. He commissioned His church to preach forgiveness of sins by repentance and faith in Him. So it was that while we were God's enemies, the gospel was preached to us. At first we disbelieved, but then, by God's grace, the Holy Spirit worked in our stony, dead hearts, regenerating them, making us new creations, giving us a new birth, a birth from above. We were born again. We repented of sin and believed in Jesus Christ, and the righteousness of Jesus Christ was counted for us.

Now, having been born again from above by the Holy Spirit, we delight in the law of God in the

inner man, not considering it a burden, but seeing it as holy, and righteous, and good. But until the Lord Jesus comes back, there is sin remaining in our flesh. (The NIV even translates “flesh” as “sinful nature.”) So, let us work on understanding in our minds what truth the bible teaches us about sabbath observance. Let us strengthen our consciences, our capacity for judging right and wrong. Then let us work from the inside, where we love the Lord Jesus Christ and the law of God, on the rest of our being, disciplining ourselves to live out that love in our thoughts, our words, and our actions.

This sermon, then will present you with two truths from the scriptures regarding what we don't do and what we do on the sabbath. From these truths you can work to put to death the flesh and live by the Spirit.

Here they are:

I. In order to know what NOT to do on the sabbath day, we work from this truth: On the sabbath day, we honor the LORD and delight in Him rather than honoring and delighting in ourselves

II. In order to know what to DO on the sabbath day, we work from this truth: We recognize Jesus Christ as Lord of the Sabbath; not ourselves as lords of the sabbath

BODY

I. In order to know what NOT to do on the sabbath day, we work from this truth: On the sabbath day, we honor the LORD and delight in Him rather than honoring and delighting in ourselves

I offer this as an improvement over making a list of things we are not allowed to do

Read the text: Isaiah 58:13-14

A. Remember that out of seven days this is His holy day, the holy day of the LORD

1. when God had created everything there is, including creating us, He then stopped on the sabbath day and blessed it and made it holy

2. when the God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, had lived his life on earth, tempted to sin, but never sinning, always loving and obeying God the Father; and when He had suffered all the wrath of God poured out on Him for the sake of sinners; He rose from the grave on the first day of the week, making that day the Lord's Day

3. so all seven days belong to the Lord, but the sabbath is His holy day, the holy day of the Lord

B. Since it is the Lord's holy day it has certain characteristics to us

1. it is a delight; the Lord Himself is delightful to us, and so His day is a delight, also

it is very pleasurable; it is very satisfying; it is very enjoyable

2. it is honorable; the Lord Himself is, of course, most honorable, and so His day

is honorable, also

it is important; it is worthy of respect; it deserves to be esteemed highly

C. Since the Lord's holy day is a delight, and is honorable, we act accordingly

1. we call it a delight; not that we just say so; but we really delight in it, and so we call it a delight

ILLUS: I saw and heard someone doing this when I was a child on a bicycle; my friend from next door, Becky Temples, asked me, "What is your favorite day of the week?" I said, "Saturday, because there's no school, and I get to watch cartoons all morning, and my favorite show comes on Saturday evening." I asked her, and she said, "Sunday, because my dad is always home from his business trips, and I love going to church." I remember feeling very ashamed, like Cain watching Abel give a much better sacrifice. I have thought of that a thousand times since then.

2. we call it honorable

3. we honor God in it

D. We honor God in it by turning away from our own business, the business of the other days, that we may attend to the Lord's business, the business of the Sabbath day

ILLUS. a student at a music conservatory; he has a full scholarship, so he can devote his days to music classes and orchestra rehearsals and his own individual lessons and practicing; he starts practicing at 8:00 in the morning; but he needs some money for some things, so the dean of the music college gives him a job sweeping and mopping the auditorium on Saturdays, starting at 8:00; this is a good thing, that the student should be glad for, and it is an honorable thing, working with his own hands to earn some money to pay his own expenses

-Monday through Friday at a few minutes before 8:00, his feet walk over to where his instrument is; his hands pick it up; his mind gets focused on his instrument; he talks with his teachers and fellow students about music, how better to understand it and play it

-but Saturday at a few minutes before 8:00, when his feet usually walk over to his instrument, he turns his feet away from his usual business; this morning his business is cleaning the auditorium; his feet don't walk over to his instrument; his hands don't pick it up

We honor God in it by turning away from our own business, the business of the other days, that we may attend to the Lord's business, the business of the Sabbath day. How do we do that?

1. not doing your own ways

2. nor finding your own pleasure

3. nor speaking *your own* words

a. it just says, "not speaking words"

b. perhaps it means, "not speaking idle words"

c. I think the idea is, "not speaking your own words"

Our church constitution's summary of these things:

“an holy rest all day, from their own works, words and thoughts, about their worldly employment and recreations”

APPLICATION: I offer you what I have just said here, based on this passage from the Word of God, as an improvement over the idea of a list of rules for what we are not allowed to do on the Sabbath day.

I. In order to know what NOT to do on the sabbath day, we work from this truth: On the sabbath day, we honor the LORD and delight in Him rather than honoring and delighting in ourselves

II. In order to know what to DO on the sabbath day, we work from this truth: We recognize Jesus Christ as Lord of the Sabbath; not ourselves as lords of the sabbath

Read the text: Matthew 12:1-13

A. If we considered ourselves lords of the Sabbath, we would fall into at least two errors

1. we would make rules for ourselves that pertained only to outward actions 7a
2. we would make rules for others that condemned the innocent 7b

B. If we consider Jesus Christ Lord of the Sabbath, we learn from Him what to do on His holy day

1. we transport ourselves to the place of worship (1)
2. we get food ready to eat (1)
3. we worship and lead in worship (5)
4. we assemble to worship (9)
5. we do good for people in crisis (11-12)

Read the text: Luke 13:10-17

6. we teach and learn from the scriptures (10)
7. we give animals the necessary care (15)
8. we set people free from the bonds of Satan (16)
9. we receive the setting free (16)
10. we rejoice in the glorious things done by the Lord Jesus (17)

Our church constitution's summary of these things

1. exercises of worship, both public and private
2. works of necessity
3. works of mercy

CONCLUSION

In order to know what NOT to do on the sabbath day, we work from this truth:

I. On the sabbath day, we honor the LORD and delight in Him rather than honoring and delighting in ourselves

In order to know what to DO on the sabbath day, we work from this truth:

II. We recognize Jesus Christ as Lord of the Sabbath; not ourselves as lords of the sabbath

The sabbath is then kept holy unto the Lord, when men, after a due preparing of their hearts, and ordering their common affairs aforehand, do not only observe an holy rest all day, from their own works, words and thoughts, about their worldly employment and recreations, but are also taken up the whole time in the public and private exercises of his worship, and in the duties of necessity and mercy.

I. Let us learn to delight in the Lord's Sabbath Day; and honor the Lord

A. it is natural to our sinful flesh to do delight in doing our own will on the sabbath day
(13a)

B. let us learn instead to call the Sabbath a delight

C. let us learn to call the holy day of the LORD honorable

II. Let us learn from the Lord of the Sabbath how to delight in His day

A. If we did what pleases us on the Sabbath day as we do on every other day, we would be honoring ourselves on the Sabbath; it is highly improper for us to honor ourselves on the Lord's holy day; so, each of us turns his foot away from the Sabbath

(Matthew 12:1) At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.

-to get food ready for breakfast before the assembly

-to transport yourself to the assembly

(Matthew 12:5) Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?

-to perform acts of worship and give leadership to them

(Matthew 12:9) Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue.

-to enter the assembly of God's people

(Matthew 12:11) Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out?"

-to care for an animal that has had an accident

(Matthew 12:12) Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

-to do good

(Mark 1:21) Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught.

(Mark 2:23) Now it happened that He went through the grainfields on the Sabbath; and as they went His disciples began to pluck the heads of grain.

(Mark 2:24) And the Pharisees said to Him, "Look, why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?"

(Mark 2:27) And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.

(Mark 2:28) Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."

(Mark 3:2) So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.

(Mark 3:4) Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they kept silent.

(Mark 6:2) And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands!

(Mark 15:42) Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath,

(Mark 16:1) Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.

(Luke 4:16) So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

(Luke 6:1) Now it happened on the second Sabbath after the first that He went through the grainfields. And His disciples plucked the heads of grain and ate them, rubbing them in their hands.

(Luke 6:2) And some of the Pharisees said to them, "Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?"

(Luke 6:5) And He said to them, "The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."

(Luke 6:6) Now it happened on another Sabbath, also, that He entered the synagogue and taught. And a man was there whose right hand was withered.

(Luke 6:7) So the scribes and Pharisees watched Him closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath, that they might find an accusation against Him.

(Luke 6:9) Then Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?"

(Luke 13:10) Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.

(Luke 13:14) But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."

(Luke 13:15) The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it?"

(Luke 13:16) So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound--think of it--for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

(Luke 14:1) Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely.

(Luke 14:3) And Jesus, answering, spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"

(Luke 14:5) Then He answered them, saying, "Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?"

(Luke 23:54) That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near.

(Luke 23:56) Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

(John 5:9) And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

(John 5:10) The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."

(John 5:16) For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.

(John 5:18) Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

(John 7:22) Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath.

(John 7:23) If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath?

(John 9:14) Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

(John 9:16) Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

(John 19:31) Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

(Acts 1:12) Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.

(Acts 13:14) But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down.

(Acts 13:27) For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him.

(Acts 13:42) So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.

(Acts 13:44) On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.

(Acts 15:21) For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath."

(Acts 16:13) And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there.

(Acts 18:4) And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

Matthew 12:1-13 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. (2) And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!" (3) But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: (4) how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? (5) Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? (6) Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple. (7) But if you had known what this means, 'I DESIRE MERCY AND NOT SACRIFICE,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. (8) For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." (9) Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue. (10) And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"--that they might accuse Him. (11) Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it

and lift it out? (12) Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." (13) Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other.

We delight to make our way to the assembly of God's people
We delight to get the necessary food ready to eat
We delight to be merciful more than to be religious
We delight to enter the assembly of God's people
We delight to help anyone who is in a crisis
We delight to do good

Luke 13:10-16 Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. (11) And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. (12) But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." (13) And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. (14) But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." (15) The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? (16) So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound--think of it--for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

to teach and learn in the assembly of the church
to relieve people's physical suffering
to do necessary daily chores such as caring for animals
to loose people from the bonds of Satan

Luke 14:1-6 Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely. (2) And behold, there was a certain man before Him who had dropsy. (3) And Jesus, answering, spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" (4) But they kept silent. And He took him and healed him, and let him go. (5) Then He answered them, saying, "Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?" (6) And they could not answer Him regarding these things.

to invite people to eat with us, and to accept such invitations
to heal
to help animals and people who are in a crisis

ILLUSTRATION: I learned to work hard and be responsible largely because of wanting to

get married to Susan, and later because of Amy and Abby being born

1. I had pretty much lazied my way through life up to 21 years old.

a. I put everything off until the last minute

b. I did the least work I could get by with

c. I did work hard at jobs when I was actually on the clock, working with my hands, with the boss there; but when left to myself I was pretty much a goof-off

2. But when, by God's grace, I found Susan, and found she was willing to get married, some big changes occurred

a.