

Exodus 20:8-11  
***Striving to Rest***  
December 26, 2010  
Sermon Outline

**I. Introduction**

A. A Troubling E-Mail:

The Church (capital "C") has a mission and your local church is an expression of that mission. When asked to define the mission of the church, the best I can sum it up is love God and love others.

B. Needing Eyes to See:

**Vance Havner** tells the story of a passenger on a long train trip. When everyone was bored by the monotony of the journey, this one passenger kept exclaiming "wonderful" at the sight of the most average scenery. When asked by another traveler the reason for his conspicuous excitement, he answered, "Until a few days ago, I was a blind man. A great doctor has just given me my sight, and what is ordinary to you is out of this world to me."

**Ephesians 1:17-18**

Notes

... that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup> ***having the eyes of your hearts enlightened***, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...

C. We Need to See Jesus

**Luke 24:25-27** (On the Road to Emmaus)

<sup>25</sup> And he [Jesus] said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!... <sup>27</sup> And beginning with ***Moses and all the Prophets***, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures **the things concerning himself**."

**Key Idea**

*How do we strive to enter the Sabbath rest of Jesus' finished work?*

**II. What the Sabbath Day was to Israel**

- A. A Clear Command
- B. A Sign of the Covenant
- C. A Holy Day

### III. Jesus' Use of the Sabbath (Matthew 12:1-8)

- A. Jesus' Urgency Greater than David's
- B. One Greater than the Temple
- C. The "Hesed" of the LORD of the Sabbath!

#### Matthew 12:7-8

<sup>7</sup> And if you had known what this means, '*I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,*' (Hosea 6:6; Matthew 9:13) you would not have condemned **the guiltless**. <sup>8</sup> **For** the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

#### Matthew 9:13

Go and learn what this means, '*I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.*' For **I came** not to call the righteous, but sinners."

### IV. Jesus is Immanuel, Our Rest

- A. Jesus is the Substance of the Sabbath

#### Colossians 2:16-17

<sup>16</sup> Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a **Sabbath**. <sup>17</sup> These are *a shadow of the things to come*, but the substance belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup> Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, <sup>19</sup> and *not holding fast to **the Head***, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, *grows with a growth that is from God*.

- B. Entering the Rest of the Promised Land

#### Hebrews 4:1-12 (Wilderness; Ps. 95)

**4** Therefore, while *the promise of entering his rest still stands*, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. <sup>2</sup> For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because *they were not united by faith* with those who listened. <sup>3</sup> For *we who have believed enter that rest*, as he has said,

*“As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest,’” although his works were finished from the foundation of the world.* <sup>4</sup> For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: *“And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.”* <sup>5</sup> And again in this passage he said, *“They shall not enter my rest.”* (e.g. Marriage)...

... *“Today, if **you** hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”* (Psalm 95:7b-8)

<sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. <sup>9</sup> So then, there remains a **Sabbath rest** for the people of God, <sup>10</sup> for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works *as God did from his.*

<sup>11</sup> *Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.* <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active, ... and *discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.* ...

## **V. How do we strive to enter the Sabbath rest of Jesus’ finished work?**

### **A. We Believe God by Believing His Son**

#### **Hebrews 4:14**

<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a **great high priest** who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

#### **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> *All this* is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, **be reconciled to God.** <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be

sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

B. Drawing Near for Mercy & Grace

**Hebrews 4:16**

Let us then *with confidence draw near to the throne of grace*, that we may receive **mercy** and find **grace** to help in time of need.

C. Encouraging One Another

**Hebrews 10:19-25**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, **since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus**, <sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> *let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith*, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us *hold fast the confession of our hope* without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And *let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works*, <sup>25</sup> **not neglecting to meet together**, as is the habit of some, but *encouraging one another*, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

D. Baptism & the Lord's Supper

**Acts 2:42, 46**

<sup>42</sup> And they **devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers**. ...

<sup>46</sup> And **day by day**, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts.

**VI. Why We Worship on the Lord's Day**

**Revelation 1:10a** (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

I was in the Spirit on *the Lord's day*, and I heard behind me a loud voice...