

✠ Matthew 6:24-34 ✠

IN NOMINE IESU

On the two tablets of stone that Moses brought down from Mt. Sinai, there was inscribed by the finger of God the Ten Commandments. And in that list of commandments, was written the command – Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. The Sabbath day was the seventh day of the week, the last day. Moses writes that there were two reasons God gave this command. One, because the Sabbath was the day that God rested from His work of creation, having created the heavens and all that is in them in six days. And so God sanctified the seventh day, making it a day of holy rest. And, second, as a remembrance that God had delivered His people out of the house of slavery.

On the Sabbath day no work was to be done. Not by anyone. Not by any animal. And anyone who broke the Sabbath day was to be put to death. Everyone, man, woman, child, and beast was to rest from their labors on the seventh day. But resting on the Sabbath day was not a command to do nothing. It meant that the people were to rest from doing work for wages. They were to cease from earning a living on the Sabbath day. They were not to buy and sell on the Sabbath day. Thus the prophet Jeremiah rebukes the people for carrying loads of wares and merchandise in and out of the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath. Those who did work for wages were those who broke the Sabbath.

But mothers were still to nurse their babies, and fathers were still to instruct their children, and children were still to obey their parents. So also there were Sabbath sacrifices that the priests were to perform at the temple. And so our Lord says to the Pharisees, “Who of you who has a sheep, if it falls down a well on the Sabbath will not reach down and lift it out?” Such activity was not breaking the Sabbath. The Sabbath day was a rest from earning money and working to stay alive. It was a testament that it is God who sustains His people. It was God’s reminder to His people that He created everything without them and gives them everything they need to support their bodies and lives. Moreover, the Sabbath day was a reminder to the people that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. By refraining from earning money on the Sabbath, the people showed their faith in God that it is God who cares for them and provides for them. So the Sabbath day was not kept by doing nothing. It was kept by an active and living faith that trusted God’s Word that He would provide for all their needs. For the righteous shall live by faith.

Those who break the Sabbath are those who worry about tomorrow. Repent of your worrying over the things of this world, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand and worrying is a sign of unbelief. We only worry when we’re afraid of what will happen or what might happen. But the mystery of God has been revealed to you for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom of God. Your heavenly Father knows what will happen and has told you what will happen: you will die and you will be raised again, or you will meet the Lord in the air, your body transformed in the twinkling of an eye, and you will be with Him and His saints forever, just as Christ is raised from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity.

You cannot serve two masters. You cannot believe God and worry about tomorrow. You cannot keep the Sabbath, believing God’s Word, and also worry about this life. If you try, then you will end up despising God because He tells you not to be greedy. He tells you to give to the poor so that you share in their poverty, as He who was rich became poor for our sakes, sharing in our poverty that we may share in His riches. Jesus tells you not to store up for yourself treasure that rots and ruts and is eaten by moths, but to store up treasures in heaven. If the

things of this life occupy your mind and eat up your time so that you have no time for God, then you will begin to hate the God who demands that you give your time and your life to His kingdom, telling you to sell all that you have and give to the poor and to follow Him into death.

God provides for all your needs of body and soul, so what is there to worry about? The Sabbath day is explained by Jesus' words, "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on ... Your heavenly Father knows that you need these things." Don't worry about these things but seek the kingdom and righteousness of God.

Cursed are those who hunger and thirst for Mammon, for they shall perish. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. They shall have the riches of the kingdom that neither spoil nor fade, where the manna is plentiful and from the Rock gushes forth never-ending streams of living water. They shall be led by their Shepherd to green pastures, beside quiet waters where He shall restore their souls. They shall eat of the Bread of Heaven until they are satisfied and then still have seven and twelve baskets full. They will drink from new wine, wrung from the Lamb of God, wine that quenches their thirst and is as common and free as water.

Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness shall not be fed empty promises and hollow food. They shall eat real food and drink true drink, feasting on the body and blood of Jesus, eating the righteousness of God that they shall become righteous. Whoever eats this bread and drinks the cup shall never hunger or thirst, but shall be satisfied.

Will the God who so clothes you with robes of righteousness and feeds you with such a heavenly banquet not also provide for the body He created? Will He not clothe the naked and feed the hungry? Do not worry about this life, what you will eat and what you will drink, what you will wear. Your heavenly Father created you, body and soul, and He will provide for you and sustain you, body and soul. He who is your Master is also He you serves you. Be still and know that He is God.

In the name of the FATHER and of the ✠ SON and of the HOLY SPIRIT.

✠ AMEN ✠