

Real Rest and Wonderful Work Luke 6:1-16

(1) On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands. (2) But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?" (3) And Jesus answered 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 took and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?" (5) And he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

1. God gave the Sabbath to humanity for our blessing. The Sabbath has always been about relationship, love, blessing, abundance, and joy.
2. Satan hates us and wants to keep us from the relationship with God and health relationships with others. He wants to keep us from love, grace, mercy, compassion, blessing, abundance, joy, and rest of God. He will use the world, the flesh, sinning or sinful people, and even religion and false teaching to steal these things from us if he can.
3. Beware of falling into the same trap as the Pharisees by adding to God's Word in a way that distorts it and hurts the people it was intended to bless and help. Be careful not to mistaken your interpretation of God's Word for God's Word itself. The Bible was given to lovingly serve people.
4. King Jesus our Great High Priest is Lord of the Sabbath. Our Lord provides all our needs for us each day both now and forever. God's law was never intended to hurt people, deprive people, or hinder people from experiencing the fullness of God's blessing. Jesus is Lord of all. Is Jesus your Lord? Have you bowed to Him as Lord?
5. God is gracious, merciful, compassionate, and He delights in meeting the needs and alleviating the suffering of His people. When you are suffering come to Jesus, cry out to Jesus, look to Jesus and find rest, instruction, and compassionate help.

(6) On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered. (7) And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him. (8) But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come and stand here." And he rose and stood there. (9) And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?" (10) And after looking around at them all he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored. (11) But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

1. Jesus was and is the greatest teacher ever. We need to listen to all He has taught us in the Bible. Jesus cares for the smallest and most practical things in our life. Jesus loves us. The accuser, on the other hand, hates us and wants us to stumble, fall, and die and go to hell. The accuser wants us to live in guilt, shame, fear, worry, and depression.
2. The Word of Christ is powerful and we need to hear it, obey it, respond to it, love it, cherish it, know it, memorize it, meditate on it, and share it with others.
3. Like Jesus, Christians should be people who love and value life and goodness. Jesus is a restorer of what has been taken from us and from what we have suffered as a result of living in a fallen sinful world. Jesus is also a restorer of what has been affected by our own sin and folly.
4. If the restoration of God, life of God, and blessing of God on another person makes you angry, something is very wrong with your heart.
5. Don't fall into the same trap as the Pharisees and miss God's love for people by blind ritualism, fruitless study, and misguided or unbalanced theology.

(12) In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. (13) And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: (14) Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, (15) and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, (16) and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. (Luk 6:1-16 ESV)

1. Big decisions call for big prayer to a big God. We need God for everything, big and small. Don't underestimate your need to seek God's heart, mind, strength, purpose, and will. We need God more than we need sleep and more than we need food. Do you recognize that you need God more than you need anything else?
2. Jesus took initiative in His leadership, and so should we. Jesus chose a small group of 12 men to work with, and even among the 12 He had an even smaller group of 3. Are you pouring into people through discipleship or mentoring? Are you pouring into a disciple-making small group (formal or informal)? Who are you discipling, mentoring, or equipping to lead? Have you ever thought about starting a small group? What do you need to do to work toward that? If you are already leading a group or in a group, who are you inviting to be a part of it? We live in a world filled with disconnected people who are longing for healthy relationships. We are you lovingly engaging relationally?
3. Jesus chose 12 ordinary men from very diverse backgrounds and settings. The thing that brought these men together was Jesus.
4. God delights in using ordinary people to do extraordinary things for His glory.
5. Be open today to God for Him to use you to the fullest. God can use you and He wants to use you. Are you available? Are you open to growth, change, transformation, and restoration?

(2) ...on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. (3) So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. (Gen 2:2-3)

(8) "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (9) Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, (10) but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. (11) For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex 20:8-11)

(27) "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." (Mr. 2:27)

(7) ...if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. (Matt 12:7)

(26) For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. (27) But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; (28) God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, (29) so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. (1Cor 1:26-29)

(13) ...when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)

(20) built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, (Eph 2:20)

(42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)

(14) And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. (Rev 21:14)

(15) The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. (Gen 2:15)

(28) And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion... (Gen 1:28)

(18) ...Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt 28:18-20)

(9) So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, (10) for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. (Heb 4:9-10)

(28) Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matt 11:28-29)

(13) ...Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors,..." (Rev 14:13)

(7) But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. (2Cor 4:7)