

Faith in the Home

Sermon Notes for the Kiddos (and everybody else)

Pentecost 12 – Luke 14: 1-14, “Religion or Relationship? Or Maybe Both?”

For context it is important to understand that God commands a day of rest. A Sabbath Day, where we rest from our labors and grow in our faith by worshiping Him.

In the beginning of Luke 14, Luke gives an account of Jesus going to a religious leader's house on the Sabbath day. From the text it can be interpreted that there were multiple priests there along with lawyers watching Jesus. There was a man among them who had dropsy (a disease where parts of your body are extremely swollen). This man would have been considered unclean by these people gathered for the dinner. The fact that the man with dropsy was there demonstrates that Jesus was there to be trapped by the priests and lawyers who normally would not have wanted a man with dropsy anywhere near their food. Jesus asks them, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?” They are silent. Jesus then heals the man, and He said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?” Again, they could give no answer. Jesus turned the tables and trapped them. They were following the letter of the law, but missing the spirit of the law. Much worse they were hypocrites. They wouldn't help a poor man with dropsy, but they would save their own sons or even their animals on the Sabbath.

What this text demonstrates is that Sabbath was meant for us to be served by God, as we rest in Him. Furthermore, it demonstrates the chief jewel of the Christian faith. No matter how broken we are, and even no matter how righteous we think we are, Jesus came into this world to help us. God loves us. God wants to be in a relationship with us. We keep the Sabbath, because we need to be reminded of this. We keep the Sabbath because God gives us a rest from the brokenness of the world. Going to Sunday morning worship alone will not save your soul, but it helps because worship creates a space for Him to strengthen and refresh are tired souls from this world and our sin. This application is greater than just going to church on a Sunday. We need to remember that we are not holy based on our accomplishments in the world. We are saved by “grace through faith” in Jesus Christ. Jesus came for you. The spirit of the Law is to help us grow in love toward God and our neighbor. We can only truly do this when we rest in the assurance and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.