

Monday Morning Rewind – March 1, 2008

Good morning! On Sabbath we returned to the Pool of Bethesda where Jesus had just shown mercy to the invalid in the “House of Mercy.” What should have been a scene of rejoicing became a scene of acrimony and strife by the “Debbie Downer” Jews who accused Jesus of breaking the Sabbath. Incredibly, though the Creator of all life was among them—the One they thought they were honoring by keeping the fourth commandment—they were blinded by their man-made traditions and actually accused God of breaking the Sabbath!

The Sabbath was a gift of God, full of spiritual meaning, but now so fossilized and encrusted with traditions that it had become practically lifeless—like the invalid *before Jesus showed up!* Which is important for modern-day Sabbath-keepers to remember: unless Jesus is in it, the Sabbath is lifeless!

And this is the point we must never forget—Jesus is the center of the Sabbath. He is our rest in God and we must enter into that rest if we would be true Sabbath keepers. Rewind to John 1:1-3; Col. 1:15, 16; Gen. 2:1-3; and Ex. 20:8-11 to see how the seventh-day Sabbath reveals Jesus as the Creator.

Man was given six days to work, buy, sell, trade, support a family, put food on the table. But on Sabbath, He was to rest, so that he wouldn't think that the world revolved around him and his work. Rather, the Sabbath was a reminder that the world and everything in it, including man himself, revolved around God. The Sabbath reminds me that I am not God, and everything I have, everything I am, everything I hope to be, belongs to Him.

The seventh-day Sabbath also reveals Jesus Christ as the healer. Check out the following healings: John 9; Luke 13:10-17; Mark 3:1-6. Jesus seemed to heal people on Sabbath to demonstrate that the Sabbath is a day to show mercy.

Rewind to Luke 4:18, 19 to see Jesus' mission statement as the Messiah. Jesus' work is our work, and if He is my Lord, then I will follow His example in how to keep the Sabbath. He did good; I need to do good. He went to church; I need to go to church. He showed mercy, I need to show mercy. He unburdened the oppressed of physical and spiritual afflictions; I should also unburden the oppressed of physical and spiritual afflictions. *The Sabbath is a day for setting people free!*

The Sabbath is so much more than what you *don't* do. It's a day to honor Jesus as the Creator. It's a day to show mercy. And it's a day for setting people free. This type of “work” on the Sabbath will help us enter into the true rest of God. Are you resting in Jesus today?—Pastor Randy

p.s. This coming Sabbath, March 8, Chava Hasse will be baptized. If you'd like to help celebrate her “New Birth-day” with a card or note, please bring them to church Sabbath and give them to Fran McKain. Thank you.