

Take My Time

Ժամանակս Քեզի Կու տամ

Exodus 3: 8-11

I wish I had more time. I want to do important things I am postponing.

Lord, I need time to prepare sermon;

Lord, I need more time to care my congregation;

Lord, I need more time to listen to my kids who are far away from me;

Lord, I need more time to take care of my wife;

Lord, I need more time to spend with you in prayer and reading...

Lord, I need more time...

Lord, I need time to rest...

Let us review:

We honor God, by being Loyal ONLY to Him. (The First Word).

We honor God by not making false images (The Second Word).

We honor God by not misusing words, His Name (The Third Word).

We honor God with our time (Fourth Word).

What is Fourth Commandment?

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. (Exodus 20:8-11 ESV)

“God's claim on our sabbaths reminds us that all our time is his gift, to be given back to him and used for him. ‘Take my life’ includes ‘take my moments and my days—take my time, all of it.’”¹

This is the longest commandment (not the second one as I earlier in my sermon about the image). It has three parts:

It tells us **What to do** (v 8)

It tells us **How to do it** (v 9-10)

It tells us **Why we do it** (v 11).

- **What to do** (v 8)

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (20:8)

This commandment starts with a verb: **Remember**.

-I always start the commandments remembering the first statement

I am the LORD (Yahweh) your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. (Exodus 20:1 ESV)

God reminds them how he delivered them. Fifty days earlier they experienced God’s mighty hand opening the Red Sea...

-The Fourth Commandment or the Word starts with the word **Remember**.

Remember what? Something older...

God reminds Israel that He is her **creator**.

Remember the creation....

God created the universe in six days and on seventh day he rested.

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 2:3 ESV)

The Seventh-day was not invented by Moses; in the beginning God created it.

Shabbat: to cease, to rest, to stop...

-**Remember**: “Remember is more than a mental word in the Bible. It means to recollect and put into practice. To ‘remember the Sabbath day’ was to acknowledge the Sabbath principle in creation and own it for yourself.”²

-**Jen Wilkin** adds saying:

“To sabbath is to seize activity for the purpose of remembering God’s provision, that we might worship him as we ought.”³

We should worship him every day. Yet, **shabbat** is a dedicated day, “a day set apart” for coming together, stopping from daily life activities, and remembering who God is.

-The Ten Commandments appear in Deuteronomy 5 as well. In it we find that the author is emphasizing how the Israelites were freed from slavery, from the Egyptians.

Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you... 15 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt.

(Deut. 5:12,15 ESV)

Sabbath will bring memories of creation and redemption. “It is a sign of God’s creative purposes and saving grace.”⁴

“We are prone to forget the great work of God in creation and redemption. And when we forget, we fail to praise him for making us and saving us.”⁵

Creation and redemption

-How to do it (v 9-10)

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. (20:9-10)

Please notice that we **should work the six days of the week**. Sometimes we think work is a punishment. Wrong theology.

God created us and put us in the garden to work. Adam and Eve worked in the garden. Work is a blessing; it is a gift from God. But we sinned. We live in a cursed world. The soil is cursed, not the work.

cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; (Gen 3:17 ESV)

Work for six days, then “set aside” the Sabbath day. **It belongs to God.**

Keep the Sabbath holy:

Dedicate, set aside this day for worship. **“To keep something holy in the biblical sense is to dedicate it exclusively for worship.”⁶**

God loves his creation. He is asking us to stop, take a break and dedicate the day to Him. God loves having a relationship with his creation.

And it is corporate worship time. All of us should stop. All of us gather together for worship. (Lev 23:3)

-It is time to **rest as well**. It is time to stop from work and take time **to rediscover God’s goodness and grace**.

-**And it is collective rest**. Not only you yourself, everyone, **including your workers, servants...**

(By the way. employers have responsibility towards their employees to give them a day of rest.)

Everyone should work, everyone should rest, so that everyone can worship God. (Think about our life nowadays in the modern world)

-Why we are doing this (v11)

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. (20:11)

-All those laws tell us something about God’s character, who God is.

God is a worker. We are created in his image. We learn from God how to be a worker. And if God rested, we too are called to stop.

We stop to worship and as I mentioned before to remember how **God freed us**.

Brothers and sisters, the **Sabbath is a liberating day**. It is not a punishment day. God is asking his creation to slow down and dedicate day for worship, service, and rest.

-Why? We learn to trust God. Six days the Israelites worked, and God asked them to stop working on that day; **no income**. It is a matter of trust that God will provide. It is a good lesson **to be liberated from the world's pressure on us**, especially economic pressures. Can we trust that God will provide?

-The Sabbath in The New Testament

In the NT we don't find that 4th commandment is quoted. Yet, we will see that Jesus became the ultimate sabbath.

Let me repeat this concept. Jesus did not abolish the law; he came to fulfill the law.

He did break the law of sabbath, not that he disagreed with the Fourth Commandment. No, he understood the heart of the law and gave it a new meaning.

-Mark 2, Jesus **feeds** his disciples by picking heads of grain. The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

-Mark 3, Jesus heals a man who has a withered hand; he is suggesting that we can do **good** on Sabbath.

-Luke 13, Jesus restores a woman with a disabling spirit. Sabbath is a day of **freedom**.

-Luke 14, Jesus heals a man from dropsy; Sabbath is a day of **mercy**.

Jesus gives new meaning to the sabbath when Pharisees were stuck in the rituals of the commandment and not the heart of the commandment.

-Paul also had his say about it:

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. (Col 2:16,17 ESV)

"Paul is talking about the old written code, which has been nailed to the cross. He is talking about the aspects of Mosaic law that have been fulfilled in Christ."⁷
Don't judge people, be careful.

So, we Christians, should we observe the Fourth Word or Commandment?

Yes, we need the Sabbath to stop, to worship, to rest and to do good.

We call it **the Day of the Lord**.

Jesus rose on Sunday, the 1st day of the week. For Christians, Sunday became our sabbath. Jesus is the ultimate Sabbath

B.B. Warfield said:

“Christ took the Sabbath into the grave with him and brought the Lord’s Day out of the grave with him on the resurrection morn.”⁸

Indeed, Christ liberated us. We don’t look to the event of Exodus for our delivery and salvation. We look to Jesus who died and rose from the dead and gave a new meaning for our “exodus” from bondage of sin. Jesus is fulfillment of the Fourth Commandment, and all the other commandments.

Application:

In 1879 the world changed... with the invention of the electric light. For the first time in history human work was no longer limited to the time between sunrise and sunset. The world that never sleeps. Edison thought there is no reason why people should go to bed at all. Hmmmmm.

The Pandemic came and now with the Internet and work from home, we have entered another era. Work anytime and anywhere!! Hmmmmm.

This is not healthy at all.

We keep working thinking we are running the world, and if we stop the world will stop... We are in control...

“God has ordained regular rhythms of rest for those who worship Him.”⁹

Stop... just stop...

Not only you, but the people who work for you. They need a Sabbath as well.

The Sabbath rest reminds us that we are not God.

God is in control, not you...

Stop...rest... but what kind of rest?

It is not just stop to watch TV, play golf, or have a shish kebab day.

Worship, collectively, rest (don’t go to work), help someone (cook for them, invite them, call them, Sunday Funday.

We all need time for restoration, time to reflect...

We all need time to reevaluate of our lives. Where am I going? What am I doing?

1. J.I. Packer, *Keeping the 10 Commandments*, p 67

2. Kevin DeYoung, *The 10 Commandments*, P 67

3. Jen Wilkin, *Ten Words to Live By*, p 65
4. Kevin DeYoung, *The 10 Commandments*, P 67
5. Philip Graham Ryken, *Written in the Stone*, p 103
6. *ibid* p 104
7. Kevin DeYoung, *The 10 Commandments*, P 69
8. Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield, *Selected Shorter Writings*, p 319
9. Jen Wilkin, *Ten Words to Live By*, p 63