God Gives Our Work Rest June 17, 2018

*Genesis 2:1-3 Series: Let God Transform Your Career*

*“I try to put myself into the human situation,*

*instead of trying to operate like a machine.”*

*- Colonel William Pogue*

Intro: No time to enjoy the view.

1. We find rest in our work when we stop seeing work as the end.
2. The seventh day wasn’t a nap for a weary God.

Isaiah 40:28 *The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary*

Psalms 121:3-4 *He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

1. Watch for the 7’s of Scripture: work is just the pre-game show.

v. 2 *on the seventh day God finished his work*

v. 2 *he rested on the seventh day from all his work*

v. 3 *So God blessed the seventh day*

1. God’s rest is where the blessing is.

v. 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.*

* To what extent can you relate to Colonel William Pogue, pressured to operate like a machine without any time to enjoy the view?
* What was the purpose of God’s rest in this passage?
* What do people typically see as the purpose of ‘a day off?’

1. We find rest in our work when we rest in the presence of God.
2. Plants and animals never get a day off.

Genesis 3:8 *And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*

1. We were created to enjoy rest with God.

Exodus 20:8-11 *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. … 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.*

1. We were saved to enjoy rest with God.

Deuteronomy 5:15 *You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.*

1. Prioritize rest with God without the rules.

Colossians 2:16–17 *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. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.*

Romans 14:5 *One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.*

Hebrews 10:24-25 *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

* What happens if we don’t prioritize rest with God?
* What rules were you taught about Sunday?
* In Colossians 2:17, what does it mean that the Sabbath was a shadow of which Christ (not Sunday) is the substance?

1. We find rest in our work when we secure our eternal rest.
2. Only Jesus can give rest to our souls.

Matthew 11:28-30 *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

1. Only obedient trust in Jesus can secure our future rest.

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

* How can we find rest in Jesus when our work feels overwhelming? i.e. How does Matthew 11:28-30 really work?
* In Hebrews 4:9-10, in what sense have we “entered God’s rest?” In what sense does “a Sabbath rest” still “remain?”
* How can the promise of our future rest make our present more restful?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll look at 1 Corinthians 7:20-24.

Notes