

From the beginning, the Sabbath was in God's heart. It was all part of his plan! God took the first sabbath (*Genesis 2:2–3*) not as a result of weariness but as a way of saying his work was done and he could now enjoy it! So it says in Genesis that he blessed the 7th day and declared it holy — this would be a day like no other.

Later he would remind His people, who were made in His image, (*Genesis 1:27*) of His intention and command them to **remember** the sabbath; **Observe** it by **keeping it holy**. In ***Exodus 20:8-11*** we are connected back to God's setting this ONE DAY apart as holy. The writer takes us back to the creation account and reminds us that the God who '*made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them*' rested. So He calls His people to be His image bearers once again by remembering, observing and keeping ONE DAY holy! This was his original intention even before the fall. Even before work would compete for first place in our lives, even before work would become an idol to so many of us, even before work was as hard as it is now — God set this day aside as Holy. He set the pattern that His people should follow as His image bearers. He wanted His people then and now to simply remember Him — This is how we were to keep it holy, by fixing our eyes back to our creator and allowing Him to be the source of life again!

When Jesus came to earth, He declared He is the Lord of the Sabbath (*Matthew 12:8*) He declared that the Sabbath was made for us, not us for the Sabbath. He reminds us. Today, I believe Jesus is inviting us into this holiness, into Sabbath — to remember Him. It's not about the practice, but rather the practice of remembering the sabbath and keeping it holy is meant to lead us to our holy God, to lead us to intimacy with Jesus, who said in *Matthew 11*, to simply come to Him and He will give us rest. He will show us how to remember, how to observe, and how to keep this ONE DAY holy unto Him.

Exercise it out:

Today would you commit to remembering? Remember him? Remember his holiness? Remember this was all part of God's intention for us even before the fall! All kinds of excuses may arise ... I have to work, I have to pay the bills, I have to tend to the kids ... I believe Jesus is inviting us to make ONE DAY holy! May we remember He is Holy and accept his invitation to come to Him even in our weariness and brokenness — He is waiting for us. Will you trust him with your time as you have trusted him with your heart?

Keep it holy, my friends!

NOTES:
