

# *Who Do You Say That I Am?*

## Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expositional Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew** 139- The Lord of the Sabbath and the Hope of the Gentiles

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Church September 14, 2025

### **Matthew 12:6-21**

**6 But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here.**

**7 But if you had known what this means, 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT A SACRIFICE,' you would not have condemned the innocent.**

**8 "For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."**

**9 Departing from there, He went into their synagogue.**

**10 And a man was there whose hand was withered. And they questioned Jesus, asking, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—so that they might accuse Him.**

**11 And He said to them, "What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out?"**

**12 How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."**

**13 Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand!" He stretched it out, and it was restored to normal, like the other.**

**14 But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.**

**15 But Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. Many followed Him, and He healed them all,**

**16 and warned them not to tell who He was.**

**17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:**

**18 "BEHOLD, MY SERVANT WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN; MY BELOVED IN WHOM MY SOUL is WELL-PLEASED; I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM, AND HE SHALL PROCLAIM JUSTICE TO THE GENTILES.**

**19 "HE WILL NOT QUARREL, NOR CRY OUT; NOR WILL ANYONE HEAR HIS VOICE IN THE STREETS.**

**20 "A BATTERED REED HE WILL NOT BREAK OFF, AND A SMOLDERING WICK HE WILL NOT PUT OUT, UNTIL HE LEADS JUSTICE TO VICTORY.**

**21 "AND IN HIS NAME THE GENTILES WILL HOPE."**

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;  
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Now before we get into the Meat of today's Message- I want to review what we have already learned from this mini-series on Jesus being the "*Lord of the Sabbath*".

- EVERYTHING in the Old Testament is, *ultimately*, about Jesus
- Jesus NEVER violated *anything* God gave to Moses
- Jesus *fulfilled* what God gave to Moses in the Law- by obeying it- *perfectly*
- Jesus violated what the Pharisees taught- because it was NOT from God
- Now that Jesus has lived; and died; and has risen again- the Sabbath is a Person- Jesus- and NOT merely a particular Day of the week
- In the New Covenant- "*Keeping the Sabbath*" is putting your Hope and Faith and Trust in Jesus (and In His finished Work) and then "*resting*" from all your Labor in trying to please God and earn God's Salvation
- Christians gather together on the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of the Week (the Lord's Day) to remember and to celebrate the Resurrection

Now there is a lot to talk about when the Issue is the "*Sabbath*". And, sadly, there is still- after the Church being on the earth for over 2,000 years- a lot of Misunderstanding when it comes to this Subject. But there shouldn't be- because the Teaching of Jesus is crystal clear; and the Logic of Jesus- concerning this Issue- is also very, very certain and clear. And so, the ONLY reason there is any Confusion about this Issue- is because of one of two things (or a combination of both):

1. Very BAD Theology
2. Holding on to what Jesus fulfilled

When God gave the "*Decalogue*" or the "*Ten Commandments*" to Moses in the Mountain- in **Exodus 20**- nine of the ten are what are called, "*Moral Absolutes*". And ALL "*Moral Absolutes*" are "*Eternal*"- they are in force- Forever- because ALL Moral Absolutes reflect the moral Perfections of God Himself. So, ALL Moral Absolutes are imposed by God on ALL Generations; of ALL peoples; from ALL Nations and Cultures; for ALL-Time- precisely because they reflect Who God is!

But the 4<sup>th</sup> *Commandment*- which says,

**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 of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the 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)**

... is NOT a “*Moral Absolute*” but rather a “*Ceremonial*” part of the mosaic Law.

And that is *why*, when God the Holy Spirit “moved” on the Writers to pen down the 27 Books of the New Testament- they *re-enforced* nine of the ten Commandments- in the 21 Epistles and in the **Book of the Acts**- but completely left off bringing the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment into the New Covenant!

So, ALL of the “*didactic Teaching*”<sup>1</sup> of the Old Covenant- contained in Ordinances and Statutes and Commandments- that pertain to “*Moral Absolutes*” are STILL binding on the New Testament Christian. But the *ceremonial* and *dietary* Aspects of the Law of Moses were part of the *unique* Relationship that God had between Himself and the Nation of Israel- for as long as the Old Covenant was in force! And those parts of the mosaic Law are NOT binding on the New Testament Christian.

So, for example, we do NOT have to obey the *parts* of the mosaic Law that *command* God’s people to *refrain* from eating certain animals; or that *impose* Restrictions on how we may dress; or that *instruct* us to keep certain “Feast Days” at certain Times of the year; or that teach us how and when and where we are to sacrifice Animals. Those are all *ceremonial* and *dietary* Aspects of the Law of Moses and are NOT binding on those who love and follow Jesus today. And we are also NO LONGER obligated to “*Keep the Sabbath*”- in the Manner in which God spoke to Moses in **Exodus**.

But it is still a Sin to lie; or to steal; or to lust; or to dishonor our Parents; or to gossip; or covet; or to love or obey any of the false gods of the pagans of the World; or worship idols; or take God’s “Name” in vain- because those *parts* of the mosaic Law are “Moral Absolutes” and reflect God’s own Personal Character and Nature and are binding on ALL Believers- *forever*!

But because of real BAD Theology from Leaders, who are either very Ignorant of the Bible; or who are very Lazy about doing the proper amount of Research; or who may not even be saved themselves- many people (who make up the majority of the modern Church)- *especially* here in America- truly do NOT understand how to navigate correctly through all of this. And the Result is there is

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<sup>1</sup> The “*didactic Teaching*” of the Old Covenant (listed in the “*Torah*”- the five “Books of Moses”) instructed the people how to be “*Holy*” and what “*Godliness*” looked like under the First or the Old Covenant.

a whole lot of very *confusing* and very *contradictory* Teachings about the Sabbath! And this has gone on for so long- that many in the modern church have simply “given up” and literally have NO Idea what to believe or what to do about the Sabbath!

And that is *exactly* what was going on back in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century in Israel with the Pharisees! Because they were NOT saved themselves; and because they were trying to make themselves to be *irreplaceable* to the people- those religious Frauds had- in effect- *created* a brand- new Religion- that had NOTHING to do with what God had given to Moses and the Prophets in the 39 Books of the Old Testament!

And so, because Jesus was God- He had NO Hesitation at all in *ignoring*; *minimizing*; or *violating* what those men taught- because what those men taught had NOTHING to do with God!

So, what exactly does it mean for Jesus to say,

**6 But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here.**

**7 But if you had known what this means, 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT A SACRIFICE,' you would not have condemned the innocent.**

**8 "For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."**

**21 "AND IN HIS NAME THE GENTILES WILL HOPE." (Matthew 12:6-8&21)**

... and so, I have some Questions:

- Why did Jesus speak about the Temple in verse 6?
- Why did Jesus quote from **Hosea 6:6** in verse 7?
- Why did Jesus say, “**For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath**” in verse 8?
- What exactly is the “*Hope of the Gentiles*” (verse 21)?
- What IS the “REST” (Sabbath) the Bible speaks about?

... and to find out- we need to look at what the unknown Writer said in **Hebrews 3:5-11:**

**5 Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later;**

**6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.**

**7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,**

**8 DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME,  
AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS,  
9 WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED Me BY TESTING Me, AND SAW MY  
WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS.  
10 "THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID,  
'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART, AND THEY DID NOT  
KNOW MY WAYS';  
11 AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.'"**

Here, the Writer was “moved” by God the Holy Spirit to infallibly say that, while Moses was, **“faithful in all His house as a servant”**- Jesus is **“faithful as a Son over His house”**! So, EVERYTHING Moses said and wrote and did while he was here on the earth was... **“a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later”**! And that *includes* the Law that God gave to Moses!

And that makes Jesus to be infinitely GREATER than Moses! Moses was faithful as a **“servant”** while Jesus was faithful as a **“Son”** Who is **“OVER”**; or Who is “in charge”; or who “holds the Supremacy” OVER the entire House! And then the Writers said,

**... whose house we are ...**

So, because ONLY in the New Covenant does God the Holy Spirit dwell continually inside of us- we Christians, ARE now the “HOUSE”; the “TENT”; the “TABERNACLE”; or the “TEMPLE” over which Jesus reigns Supreme! And the Apostle Paul agreed with this when he was “moved” by God the Holy Spirit to write,

**... For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. (2Corinthians 6:16b/quoting from Leviticus 26:123 and Ezekiel 37:27)**

And this also gives us a hint as to why Jesus said, **“But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here”**. Under the Old Covenant- all these things transpired inside the Temple- because that’s where the Sacrifices were made. But now, in the New Covenant- Jesus IS the Sacrifice! And so, all of this transpires for Believers who are **“IN UNION”** with Jesus Christ in Salvation!

But wait! There is a huge Caveat here! The Writer of **Hebrews** does NOT say we are the House or the Temple- PERIOD! No, he said,

... whose house we are, **IF** we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

Now the phrase, “**hold fast**” means: *to maintain; to keep; or to persevere*. So, the Writer said we are to *keep; maintain; or persevere* in two things in order to qualify as being the “House” over which Jesus reigns Supreme:

1. **our confidence**
2. **the boast of our hope**

... and we are to “**hold fast**” or maintain; or keep; or persevere in these two things...

... **firm until the end**

Now “**our Confidence**” does NOT have to do with any human Confidence that we have in ourselves. No, this Confidence has to do with how *certain* we are- that Faith in Jesus *personally*; and in His finished Work- is ALL WE NEED to escape the Damnation of God and to live forever in Glory with the entire Godhead! And the “**Boast of our Hope**” is basically the same. It is to take Confidence and find Assurance in the future, certain Reality of Salvation; and the eternal Glory that Jesus Christ has secured for us and promised to us!

But HOW do we do that? HOW do we *persevere* in those two areas- *steadfast* and *firm* until the Day we die? The Writer tells us,

**TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED Me BY TESTING Me, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS.**

So, the WAY or the PATH to obeying the Command to, “**hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end**”- so we may BE the “House” or the “Temple” over which Jesus reigns and in which the Holy Spirit dwells- is:

**DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS**

So, *whatever* we do- we MUST NOT allow our Hearts to become “Hard”- because God does NOT deal with a “Hard Heart”. Part of what it means for us to personally experience the Miracle of the New Birth is for God to “**take the heart**

**of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God. (Ezekiel 11:19-20)**

Okay, but what does this have to do with Jesus being the “Lord of the Sabbath”? Look what the unknown Writer said next,

### **Hebrews 3:10&11**

**10 "THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, 'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART, AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS';**

**11 AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.'"**

If we do NOT “**hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end**” because we allowed our Hearts to become hard- we are *proving* beyond any Doubt that whatever “Salvation Experience” we think we had- was NOT TRUE! So, the Writer was “moved” by God the Holy Spirit to teach that the *true* Sabbath- the Sabbath over which Jesus is Lord- is, in fact, Salvation! Now please continue to read:

### **Hebrews 3:12-19**

**12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.**

**13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.**

**14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,**

**15 while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME."**

**16 For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses?**

**17 And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?**

**18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient?**

**19 So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.**

Here are genuine natural Descendants of Abraham- Sons and Daughters of Abraham- in EVERY respect- who could NOT enter into the true Rest; the true Sabbath of God! Why? The Writer said, “**because of unbelief**”!

So, the Ability those Jews had- to trace their natural Genealogy back to Father Abraham did NOT help them at all! The Fact that they were circumcised did NOT help them at all! Those Jews, who did NOT BELIEVE- could NOT enter into God's *final* Rest; God's *true* Sabbath's Rest! Salvation! Heaven! Why? Because they were not saved! Why were they NOT saved? They didn't believe!

That tells us that there was ALWAYS *two* "Israels"; there was ALWAYS *two* different Groups of Jews! There was the "*true* Israel"; the "*true* Jews"- who were *genuine* Believers! And those Jews were saved! But there was also the "*nominal* Jews"; the "*outward* Jews"; the "*false* Jews"- who were "Jews" in name only! And those Jews did NOT believe! They did NOT love God; they were NOT saved; and they did NOT go to Heaven!

And the SAME thing is true today in the Church of Jesus. There have ALWAYS been *two* Churches! Two types of "*Christians*"! There is the "*visible Church*" that contains EVERYBODY who *says* they're saved! But then there is the "*invisible Church*"; the "*true Church*"- that contains ONLY the true, legitimate Believers!

The "*visible Church*" contains both "*genuine*" as well as "*false Converts*". And so, it is in the "*visible Church*" where BOTH the "*spiritual Wheat*" as well as the "*Tares*" dwell (**Matthew 13:24-30**)!

The "*invisible Church*"; the "*spiritual Church*"; or the "*mystical Church*" is the ONLY "*true Church*"- which is made up of ONLY "true and genuine Believers"! This is the ONE; HOLY; CATHOLIC (Universal); and APOSTOLIC Church; that Jesus is building; over which Jesus ALONE is Head; that is made up of the true "spiritual HOUSE" (Believers)- over which Jesus reigns Supreme! And these are the ONLY people who will enter into God's *true* Sabbath Rest (Heaven)!

And so, the Pastor of this small Church around 68AD- pleaded with the people to:

**Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.**

Take care! Examine yourself! Look at yourself *honestly*- in light of the Scriptures! Why? So, "**there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.**"

Now the *first* thing to say here is that this Writer is NOT teaching that genuinely saved people can lose their Salvation! And so, from that perspective- what people teach today about "*Eternal Security*" or "*Once Saved Always Saved*"- is true! But where MOST, who believe in Eternal Security, get horribly off-base- is to then completely *neglect* or to *minimize* the biblical Command to, "**Take care**"!



Because it is by us “taking care” to heed all of these many Warnings that are in the New Testament that “keeps us saved”!

We are NOT going to Heaven- no matter what we do and no matter how we live our Lives. That is NOT what the Bible teaches. We “remain saved” precisely because we are *constantly* making the necessary “Course Corrections” based upon us taking the Warnings in the Bible very seriously; repenting of being lazy; and of growing hard-hearted; and of “drifting away” from the Path of Righteousness!

So, we need to realize that this Passage was written to ONLY those who said they were saved! This Passage was NOT written to the Lost. And so, those who say they are saved need to *verify* that the Salvation they say they possess- is real! How? By *continually* repenting; by *continually* trusting; by *continually* taking care; by *continually* examining ourselves; and by *continually* believing and hoping!

But why do we need to do this- even after we are saved? Because we are humans- we have an *enormous* Capacity to deceive ourselves! We can believe strongly about things that aren’t even true; and we can completely fail in examining ourselves- *correctly*! And the Proof of that lies in the tens of millions of souls, who have been *deceived* by false Religions and false Teachings. And yet, NONE of them think they’re deceived; and ALL of them *think* they are saved! And so, the Writer gives us the Remedy:

**But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.**

... which shows us that “going to Church” is much MORE than simply sitting in the Pew and singings songs and listening to the Sermon. Each one of us is to be very busy- **“to stimulate one another to Love and to Good Deeds (Hebrews 10:24)!**

It is infinitely *easier* for us to “be deceived” and “discouraged” when we are alone. But God moves through His Church. And so, as we pray and labor and work together as a Body to **“cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God- TOGETHER- we will NOT be “hardened by the deceitfulness of sin)!**

Now please remember that the entire Purpose behind WHY we need to do all these things is so we will be able to enter into the *true* Rest or the *true* Sabbath of God- which has to do with us *ceasing* from our Labor to earn God’s Favor (Salvation) by putting our Hope and Faith in Jesus and in His finished Work! But, *ultimately*, the FINAL Rest- the ULTIMATE Rest- is being *reconciled* to God in Heaven- forever!

So, look what the Writer said next:

## Hebrews 4:1

**Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.**

So, *why* do we need to fear? I thought Salvation in Jesus *eliminated* ALL Fear! Yet here, the Writer tells people, who were already saved- to fear! Why?

Again, because we are human beings- we are *easily* deceived- *especially* about ourselves! But in addition to that- our Obedience to what God has commanded- is haphazard- at best! And many of the Promises of God are contingent on our Obedience! And so, the Writer said,

**... if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it**

So, if a Promise of entering into God's final and ultimate Rest seems to be still out of reach for us; if that Promise seems to be distant to us or it seems that we are coming short of possessing that Promise- we SHOULD Fear!

Now this is NOT that blinding, paralyzing kind of Fear that stops us from even trying. This kind of godly, biblical Fear; this spiritual Concern- causes us to *adjust* our daily "*Walk with God*"; our daily "*Pattern of Obedience*"- so we can do *better* at obeying what God requires!

But WHY is this necessary even AFTER we have experienced the Miracle of the New Birth? The Writer answered by saying,

## Hebrews 4:2-7

**2 For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.**

**3 For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, "AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST," although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.**

**4 For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: "AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS";**

**5 and again in this passage, "THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST."**

**6 Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience,**

**7 He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS."**

Now we can argue about this all day long- but, evidently, God the Holy Spirit understands us better than we do- because he is *repeatedly* "moving" on this ancient Pastor to warn us about our Hearts becoming Hard. So, this is, obviously, a serious Problem- even among those who have already been born again!

The Truth is that every- single Person, who did NOT believe; who perished in the Wilderness; and who did NOT enter into God's Rest (Salvation) heard the Gospel preached to them! So, from that perspective- we are NO different than they were! So, what makes us think we can escape the Danger of a hard Heart and Unbelief? The Writer said hearing the "Good News" MUST be mixed with Faith!

Okay, that's true! Without hearing WITH Faith- the Good News is impotent! But EVERYBODY- who is deceived today- will tell you that they DID mix the hearing of the Good News with Faith! Now they, obviously, didn't- or they would be saved. But there MUST be something else involved here that will determine who is actually hearing the Gospel with Faith and who isn't. And that something else is what the Writer said,

**Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.**

*This* Fear; this godly, *reverential* Fear is what makes the Difference! Because the one who has truly been saved- understands his own Frailty; his own Inclination to sin and to fall short of God's Commands. And that Knowledge creates godly Humility, which, in turn, causes the Fear. And the Fear is what motivates the Change in Behavior that will PROVE that the Salvation he thinks he has- is genuine! And that is what a *soft*-Heart looks like!

It isn't the Lack of Information that brings about the Damnation of the deceived individual- it is his Arrogance! Because part of what it means to be Lost- is that you don't think you're Lost! You think you're "right as rain"! You think you're saved! So, the deceived person, who only thinks he's saved- will NEVER fear. He will NEVER approach this with Humility and therefore, he will NEVER change his Behavior! And that is what a *hard*-Heart looks like! But now look again at verses 3-5:

**3 For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, "AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST," although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.**

**4 For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: "AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS";**

**5 and again in this passage, "THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST."**

So, even though God's Works, "were finished from the foundation of the world"- God still said, "'AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST" [because of Unbelief]. This illustrates the absolute Sovereignty of God in that He both "knew in advance" (Omniscience) and then also, sovereignly "allowed" (Omnipotence) those NOT chosen for Salvation- to *remain* hard-hearted in their Unbelief!

Now if God stopped right there- we would ALL be doomed. But the Writer went on to say,

**6 Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience,**

**7 He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS."**

... which has to do with those chosen for Salvation in Jesus Christ! The OT Jews, who did NOT believe; who died in the Wilderness; and who did NOT enter into God's Rest are "those who formerly had good news preached to them..." in verse 6, while we are the, "some", who have been chosen to believe! Now please look at what the Writer said next in **Hebrews 4:8:**

**For if Joshua had given them [the OT Jews] rest, He [God] would not have spoken of another day after that.**

... in other words, if the "*ultimate* Rest" that God was talking about was either the physical "Promised Land" OR even the "seventh Day"- God would have *already* fulfilled that Promise in, by, and through the ancient Jews. But He didn't- because He also said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS."- which is referencing those who would come after the Jews- which is the Gentiles who have been chosen for Salvation in the New Covenant!

Now I realize this is a bit complicated. And I pray that I am explaining this enough for you to grasp what the Bible is actually telling us. The *true* Sabbath; the

*ultimate* Sabbath; the *final and completed* Sabbath is NOT a particular Day of the week! It is a final and full and completed and ultimate REST IN Jesus- IN, BY, and THROUGH eternal Salvation- that is made real by Faith ALONE! And that is why, about 1500 years AFTER God gave Moses the Law (including the Part about the Sabbath) and AFTER God destroyed the Jews in the Wilderness because of their Unbelief- God the Holy Spirit “moved” on the unknown Writer of Hebrews to say this in **Hebrews 4:9**:

**So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God**

.. in other words, EVERYTHING that the saved Jews as well as the saved Gentiles (who were in the Church around the year 68AD)- understood about the Sabbath- from EVERYTHING God gave in the 39 Books of the Old Testament- was INCOMPLETE! There was MORE! MUCH MORE! How do we know that? Because the Holy Spirit spoke through the Writer and said,

[Even though we know a lot about people “keeping the Sabbath” under the Old Covenant]- **there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God!**

... and then the writer went on to prove his Point by saying,

**For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. (Hebrews 4:10)**

So, the genuine Believer, who has entered into God’s *ultimate* Rest (the true Sabbath) has rested from his own Works (his own Efforts to earn God’s Favor)- in the same Way God rested!

And then the Writer gave us the “*Conclusion of the Matter*” concerning the true Sabbath, when he said,

**Hebrews 4:11**

**Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.**

Now the word, “**Therefore**” is actually a legal Term that has to do with the Way an Argument is proposed. The legal Document would say something like, “*Whereas this is true*” and “*Whereas that is true*”- THEREFORE- here is the Summation or the Conclusion of the Argument! So, the writer gave us fact after

fact from both the Old and New Testaments- and now he is giving us the “Therefore” of the Matter when he said,  
[Now that everything I have told you is true- now THEREFORE- **let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.**

There is NO Reason at all why anyone would have to be “**Diligent**” to enter into a particular Day of the Week so they could rest from their Labors. That particular Day would come around every single Week! But IF entering the true Sabbath involved NOT allowing our hearts to become hard; IF entering the true Sabbath involved “**hold[ing] fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end**”; IF entering into the true Sabbath involved “**tak[ing] care that we DON’T have an evil unbelieving Heart**”; IF entering into the true Sabbath involved NOT allowing our Hearts to be hardened by the “**deceitfulness of Sin**”; and IF entering into the true Sabbath involved us **fear[ing] while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it- THEN (Therefore) we MUST be Diligent!**

We MUST NOT take any of these Warnings lightly! We MUST NOT think that, because we have already experienced the Miracle of the New Birth that these Warnings and Commands don’t apply to us! We MUST NOT be careless or foolish with “so Great a Salvation!” We MUST NOT neglect what God has done in and for us through Jesus! And we MUST “make certain” that our Calling and the Fact that God chose to save us- is SURE and FACTUAL and backed up with the unarguable Proof of Salvation- which is the ever-growing godly Fruit that we already HAVE! And we also WILL- in the FUTURE- enter into His REST!

Now please look at what the former Tax-collector infallibly wrote in **Matthew 12:14:**

**But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.**

This shows us, beyond any Doubt that the circumcised Pharisees were NOT sons of Abraham; they were NOT chosen for Salvation; they were NOT God’s people; they did NOT believe; they had NOT entered into God’s Rest; and they were NOT “keeping the Sabbath Holy”!

If you don’t like what somebody says- walk away! Don’t listen to him! Maybe even argue with him! But when anyone crosses the Line and responds to what somebody says by “**conspiring against Him as to how they might destroy**”

the ONLY sinless Man, who ever lived- that Action proves that you are demon-possessed; you are Evil; and you are a child of satan!

Now keep in mind that this evil and demon- inspired Act was brought about because Jesus graciously and mercifully healed a man, who had a withered arm! Jesus wasn't trying to get the Pharisees to do anything! He was simply acting in both Mercy and Grace to a pitiful human being.

And you can argue religious Issues all day long. You can debate and hypothesize all day long. You can attempt to convert people all day long. And you can seek to maintain the religious Status you think you already have. But to conspire on how you can love and obey God by murdering someone else- is a "Bridge too far"! So, this was NOT the Actions of humble and dedicated servants of God. This was the Actions of wicked and sinful men, who had been led astray by the devil himself to seek to destroy the incarnate God! And I'm not sure a human being can sin against God- *worse* than this!

So, what was Jesus' Response to this blatant Act of Wickedness? Matthew tells us,

**15 But Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. Many followed Him, and He healed them all,**

**16 and warned them not to tell who He was. (Matthew 12:15&16)**

So, after knowing what those evil religious Frauds were planning to do- Jesus *responded* by simply continuing what He was already doing: Healing sick people; casting out demons; feeding the Hungry; teaching and preaching the Gospel; and seeking and saving that which was Lost!

Beloved, when confronted with an Act of Evil- we MUST NOT "take the bait" and respond in kind! We MUST NOT act like the evil ones act! Because if we do- we aren't any better than they are! If their Wickedness causes us to act wickedly- then they won! Satan won! And Evil has triumphed over Good! Here is what the Apostle Paul, who had some Experience with this sort of thing said in **Romans 12:21:**

**Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

And so, Matthew told us here that the Reason Jesus responded to the Wickedness of the Pharisees with an Act of Mercy and Grace was..

**17 ... to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:**

**18 "BEHOLD, MY SERVANT WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN; MY BELOVED IN WHOM MY SOUL is WELL-PLEASED; I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM, AND HE SHALL PROCLAIM JUSTICE TO THE GENTILES.**

**19 "HE WILL NOT QUARREL, NOR CRY OUT; NOR WILL ANYONE HEAR HIS VOICE IN THE STREETS.**

**20 "A BATTERED REED HE WILL NOT BREAK OFF, AND A SMOLDERING WICK HE WILL NOT PUT OUT, UNTIL HE LEADS JUSTICE TO VICTORY.**

**21 "AND IN HIS NAME THE GENTILES WILL HOPE."**

... because the Reason the Gentiles will Hope in Jesus- will be because Jesus has chosen to display the Glory of God's Grace by what He alone does for unworthy Sinners in Salvation! Because not only has God chosen to save some of the lost Jews- but He has also chosen to save some of the lost Gentiles! And those whom Jesu saves- will enter into the *true and final* Rest- the *ultimate* Sabbath- FOREVER!

Amen! Let's pray!

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your Pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God ALONE!



