

“Water & Sabbath” | Rev. Craig Chapman | May 22, 2022

Reading from the Acts of the Apostles: [Acts 16:9-15](#)

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” 10 And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

11 So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. 13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. 14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. 15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

New Testament Reading: [Revelation 21:10, 22-26; 22:1-4](#)

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God... 22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. . . .

22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

Introduction

Everyone is baptized into something. Parents baptize their children into some worldview or passion. We all have waters that we believe will give us life. But only the water God gives can truly satisfy.

Background

1. **Water**

- a. Our sin makes us spiritually infirm.
- b. The pool of Bethesda was a place of desperation and competitive angst, where there was never enough healing to go around.
- c. If you find God, it is because God came seeking you first, as he did with Lydia.
- d. Jesus is not just a means to an end. He is the end. He doesn't just offer salvation, he is salvation.

2. **Sabbath**

- a. Revelation shows us the eternal sabbath rest, which all other sabbaths point to.
- b. The New Jerusalem is better than the Garden of Eden. God is its temple and its light, and there is no forbidden tree.
- c. Jesus calls us to detach our hearts from whatever we have been baptized into other than him.
- d. Sabbath rest is a biblical tool to free us from the tyranny of busyness. We don't have to do everything. We need space to be with others, and for prayer and play. Sabbath protects us from desecrating time.

Discuss

1. What waters do you believe will give you life?
2. Do you know places like the pool of Bethesda, places of desperation and competition? It can be a school, a club, a circle of friends, a sports team, a job, or wherever else you want to feel like you belong.
3. Can you think of a time you or someone else treated God like a means rather than an end?
4. What is one way you could receive God's gift of sabbath rest?

Conclusion/Application

The Holy Spirit is God's living water, the only water that can fully wash and restore us. When we accept the rest he offers, our hearts are freed from the constant striving of this world.

Prayer

Father, you are the source of all being and life. You have given us your Spirit through your Son, the Lord Jesus. Please forgive us for rejecting your pure, life-giving water and trying to dig up our own from the mud. Instead of relying on our own efforts, help us rest in you. Thank you for being our salvation. Amen.

Gospel Reading: [John 5:1-9](#)

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. 3 In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. 5 One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” 7 The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” 8 Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” 9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

Now that day was the Sabbath.

By Kyle and Heather Highful