

Sermon Outline - Sun, November 6 , 2022
Jubilee – Sabbath in the Season

Overview of Month – Last year we started looking at the Biblical practice of Jubilee which got set up for the Israelites to celebrate every 50 years. We are also looking at the Year of Sabbath which happens every 7 years. Just before the children of Israel entered the land that God promised to them, God tells them that every 7 years they should take a Sabbath year to let the land rest. After 7 X & 7 yr cycles on year 50 it is the Year of Jubilee in which everything is reset. We are studying the 6 practices of Jubilee - (1) Relate, (2) Rest, (3) Rely, (4) Reset, (5) Release, (6) Restore, (7) Rejoice.

Exegesis

- They never practice Jubilee – why? 50th year is a culmination of the practices of the other 49. If you are not on track for 49 years you won't get it together for the 50th.
- For that reason we have to lean into a real examination of the Sabbath Year structure (Next Shmita year is in 2021, so we have a year to get it together.)
- This command to rest is a central theme of the Commandments laid out in Exodus and Number. Again and again God tells them to make Sabbath a key practice of their lives
- Slaves don't set their schedule – so it was part of releasing their Egyptian practices
- Sabbath is a key tenet in Judaism that has been lost in Christianity and if we are going to be a people that is serious about Jubilee then we have to be serious about Sabbath.
- There are a list of Melachot (rules about work) that are being updated in the modern era (one definite focus – no screens)

Key Points – REST is a central command of God - (includes chill time but it's also more than that)

1. **Stop** – You are doing too much and often too much of stuff that doesn't matter and not enough of what does. Either way. Stop stressing yourself and accept God's rest!
2. **Listen** – God can't get through to you. We don't have enough time for the people we love. We can't hear the cry of the Earth. In Sabbath we make space to listen
3. **Obey** – (1) God says do it so we should. We keep Sabbath as a reminder of who is in charge and that the world keep going without us. (2) Sometimes we don't move because we are unclear, but often we have heard from God and don't like what was said so we maintain a fog to claim ignorance.
4. **Worship** – Time is a gift from God. We can't create more of it. And so we worship the creator of time. The creator of the universe. We give one day that is truly all about God and not our human stuff

Core Questions –

1. Keepin it real – how often in a do you practice anything like Sabbath? Can you take a small practice and grow it or commit to a small start?
2. What do you think would be the biggest obstacle to you leaning into Sabbath? What would you have to let go of?
3. Sabbath contradicts so much of what our culture promotes. What communal support would help you reach that goal?