

A watercolor illustration of a coastal town. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills with some trees. In the middle ground, a town is built on a hillside, featuring a prominent lighthouse with a white tower and a dark top. To the left, a sea stack rises from the water. The sky is filled with soft, white and blue clouds. The overall style is soft and artistic, with visible brushstrokes and a warm color palette.

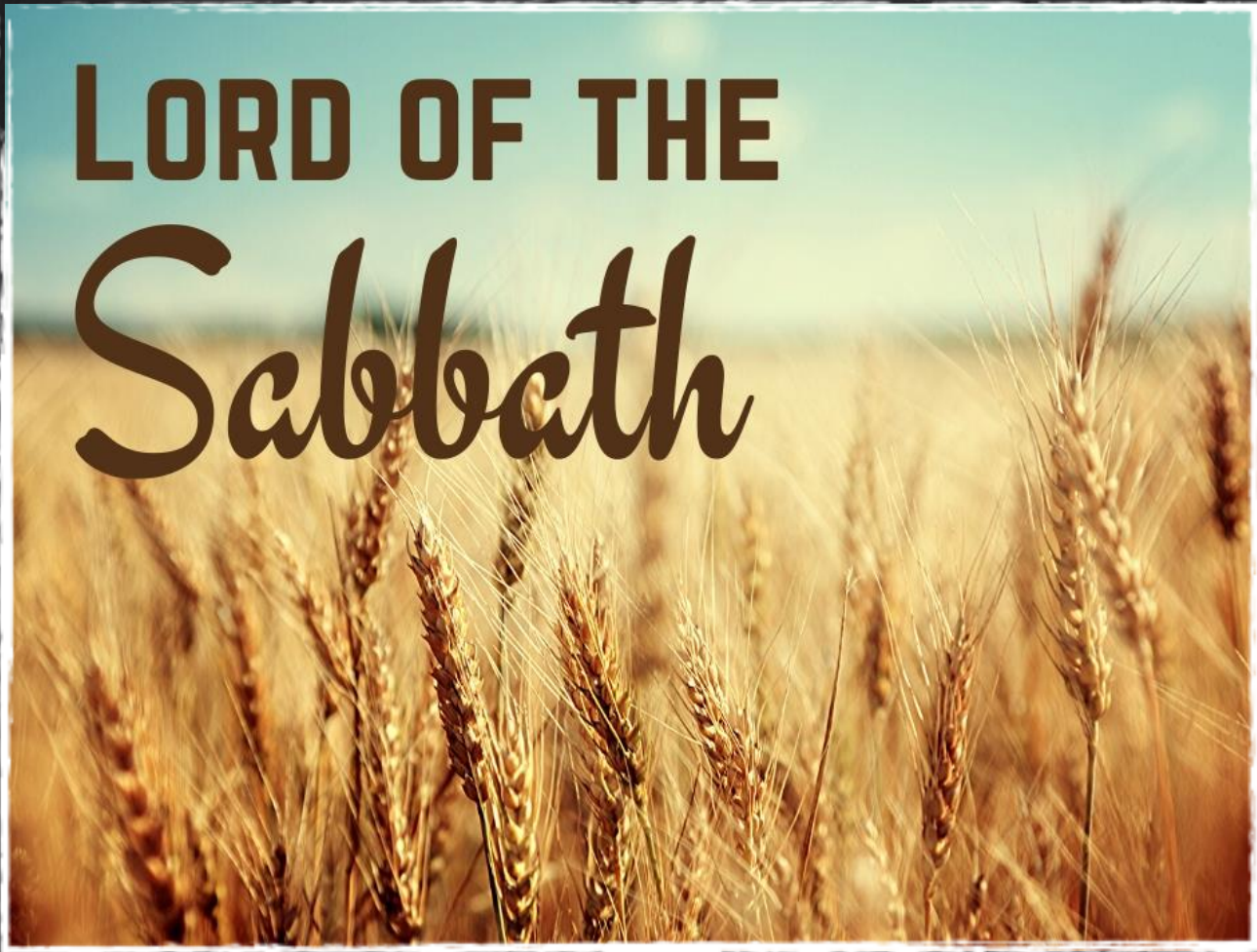
The Gospel of

Luke

“I know You by a thousand names
and You deserve every single one.
You’ve given me a million ways
to be amazed at what You’ve done
and I am lost in wonder
at all You do.”

LORD OF THE

Sabbath



Luke 6:1-2

1 On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands. 2 But some of the Pharisees said, “Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?”

“If you go into your neighbor’s standing grain, you may pluck the ears with your hand, but you shall not put a sickle to your neighbor’s standing grain.”

(Deuteronomy 23:25)

“Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest. In plowing time and in harvest you shall rest.”

(Exodus 34:21)

“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. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 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.” (Exodus 20:8-11)

Luke 6:3-4

3 And Jesus answered them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: 4 how he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?"

Luke 6:5

5 And he said to them, “The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”

Sabbath (Heb. *shabbat*)

- To take a seat
- To sit still
- To dwell
- To cease and rest

“In the Old Testament, the sabbath command is solid, fierce, and mandatory. It is rooted in the two greatest narratives that shaped Israel: Creation and Exodus. Sabbath is appropriate because God rested on the seventh day after completing his creative work. It is commanded because God brought Israel out of Egypt.”

(N.T. Wright)

“Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. 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.” (Deuteronomy 5:13-15)

*“...finish the transgression, put an end to
sin, atone for iniquity, bring in
everlasting righteousness, seal both
vision and prophet, and anoint a most
holy place.”*

(Daniel 9:24)

“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.”

(Matthew 11:28-29)

Luke 6:6-7

6 On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered.

7 And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him.

Luke 6:8-9

8 But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come and stand here." And he rose and stood there. 9 And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?"

Luke 6:10-11

10 And after looking around at them all he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored.

11 But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

“Moderns have tended to lose the sense of the Sabbath as a gift of God. Many measure success by ‘the extent or pace of our own striving.’ It is said of someone with pride: ‘This person works 24/7.’ It reflects our attempt to keep an anxious grip on the world and prevent people from experiencing a time to rejoice, refocus, and give gratitude. It also forecloses on the opportunity for God to do God’s work in them.” (D. Garland)

“Sabbath consciousness is grounded in the fundamental conviction that God is willing and able to provide enough for humans to survive and thrive. It is based on the belief that life and well-being ultimately are gifts from God, not products of human effort, though these gifts are channeled through human labor. Sabbath consciousness thus is grounded in humility, recognizing and respectful of the limits of being human.”

“In a nutshell, sabbath consciousness is grateful confidence in the abundant life given by God and humble self-restraint as the appropriate response to God who unselfishly sustains all creation.” (R. Lowerey)

What does it mean to live in a gospel sabbath? What does it mean to know Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath?

“We take time to rest, play, create,
and restore beauty in ways that
reflect God to ourselves and to
others.”

“We can live with the confidence that God is running the world, so we don’t have to.

We can be settled at heart, knowing that Jesus has done all the work necessary to make us acceptable to God, so we no longer need to try to earn his acceptance through our work. We can work with all our hearts unto the Lord, out of gratitude and actually be at rest while we are working.”

“I have discovered that my lack of faith in God’s power to save, sustain, and secure me is displayed in my lack of ability to truly rest, create, and play.” (J. Vanderstelt)