

Rhythms of Peace

Jordan Biel Part 2 | Rock of Grace

Goal: That you and I would live in the peace God promises.

Premise: God has established ways in which to live that bring us peace. Avoiding these patterns (rhythms) leaves us stressed out.

Peace Thieves:

Lie: You need to do more

Truth: You may need to do less in your schedule; you may need to rest more.

Not creating margin in your schedule. Margin leaves time to breath. Some of you are simply over-scheduled

Lie: You don't have time to rest.

Truth: God designed a sabbath - a day of rest and worship to remind you that it is HE who has done a great work for you.

Lie: You need to have more stuff.

Truth: Simplicity brings a sense of peace.

Some people work 60 plus hours so they can have more money for the sake of security - again it's own problem. Others work 60 plus hours so they can have more stuff - only increasing their debt and subsequently increasing the number of arguments they'll have over money with their spouse.

Lie: Money brings peace. You need to have more money.

Truth: Knowing Jesus brings peace. He is literally the Prince of Peace.

You don't need any more money to be happy. Contentment is the key.

There's nothing wrong with creating wealth for your future, for your kids, for missions... if you know me, you know that I firmly believe in that. But there's a difference between wanting money - even craving it for a sense of security - as opposed to creating wealth for the goal of generosity. Those are two very different motives and one brings stress while the other brings peace.

There are weekly rhythms that God has designed such as resting & giving & worship that break the lies that steal your peace. These rhythms of peace are resting, giving & worship.

Rhythm is defined as a strong, regular, repeated pattern of movement or sound. Also a "systematic arrangement of music sounds, beat and pattern to follow" according to Oxford Dictionary

The big idea: **God has established a rhythm that we can either walk in OR avoid.**

If we live our lives in the rhythm that God has established, then we will live in the peace that God intended. If we avoid God's principles and weekly rhythms, then we step out of God's plan and enter pain and stress. Again...

There are weekly rhythms that God has designed such as resting & giving & worship that break the lies that steal your peace.

So in this series we're going to talk about some rhythms that God has established - a design that we can live in. Here's one premise for the sermon series - this is where it begins for all of us...

You will continue to feel defeated and discouraged if you are not willing to submit your life to Jesus. Ironically, we are only free when we surrender. The Devil's role is Deceiver, Destroyer & Accuser according to scripture. His first aim is to deceive you into thinking that God's rhythm (patterns or rules) are a constraint; in reality, they're a haven of safety. **Mention Gay Girl Good God author's comments on her realizing her need to submit those sexual desires to Jesus in order to let herself be forgiven/made whole and FREEDOM from what Satan wanted. She went on to say that only when I realized that my sin, my temptation to be attracted to other women was a matter of sin just like all my other church friends, I realized that just like them, I have to surrender those feelings to God. That's what repentance is - it's realizing that I am wrong and God is right and that GOD can make me right.*

2 RHYTHMS WE NEED TO BE IN SYNC WITH:
REST & WORSHIP

RHYTHM 1) REST

2) WORSHIP

3) GIVE

1) REST & SABBATH

Lie: You need to do more

Truth: You may need to do less in your schedule; you may need to rest more. Not creating margin in your schedule. Margin leaves time to breath. Some of you are simply over-scheduled

Lie: You don't have time to rest.

Truth: God designed a sabbath - a day of rest and worship to remind you that it is HE who has done a great work for you.

2) WORSHIP

When you worship, you break the lie that you are a self-made man. When you worship, you are reminding your soul that it is GOD who has created you and saved you and given you everything you need for life and peace.

God has established a weekly pattern of worship in His Word. We're going to look at that pattern in the sense of the Tabernacle here in a little bit but first just know that God has created us to worship Him. Ironically when we GIVE Him praise and GIVE Him glory on a consistent basis, it keeps us in sync with what we were designed to do! We receive joy and we receive peace when we give Him glory and worship!

3) GIVE

Giving breaks the two lies about money - that you need to have more things or more money in the bank to be content. Giving sacrificially is one of the most obvious sign that God, our generous Father, is doing a work in your heart.

When you sabbath, you break the lies that steal your peace.

Lie: You need to have more stuff.

Truth: Simplicity brings a sense of peace.

Some people work 60 plus hours so they can have more money for the sake of security - again it's own problem. Others work 60 plus hours so they can have more stuff - only increasing their debt and subsequently increasing the number of arguments they'll have over money with their spouse.

Lie: Money brings peace. You need to have more money.

Truth: Knowing Jesus brings peace. He is literally the Prince of Peace.

You don't need any more money to be happy. Contentment is the key.

There's nothing wrong with creating wealth for your future, for your kids, for missions... if you know me, you know that I firmly believe in that. But there's a difference between wanting money - even craving it for a sense of security - as opposed to creating wealth for the goal of generosity. Those are two very different motives and one brings stress while the other brings peace.

Lie: You don't need to work. The government will take care of you.

Truth: There's a joy and peace that comes with work; God told Adam to cultivate and care for the garden of Eden BEFORE the fall of sin. The entire world learned a lesson during the pandemic. Sitting alone at home and not working leads to anxiety - the opposite of peace. Believe it or not, we are wired to work, wired to create, wired to do something for someone. The idea here is that of service - if I provide a service to you - if my job skills help enrich your life, then I get a joy out of that. This is the truth that every successfully Christian entrepreneur has come to understand.

Daily & Weekly Worship in RHYTHM (steady consistent pattern / unchanging) then is a matter of submission - surrender to the order Creator God has established. This leads me to think of the Tabernacle of Moses. God was very specific with the rhythms - the patterns and procedures - that needed to be followed. Now we know that ALL of these patterns were symbols of Jesus and His work of grace but none the less we can learn so much from the beautiful picture - the patterns - the daily and weekly and yearly rhythms of Tabernacle Worship.

Before we describe Tabernacle Worship I want to set one more premise.

If you are discouraged and frustrated in life, it could be because you are living out of sync with God's established rhythm.

Anytime we live outside of Creator God's design, we invite pain and confusion.

What are the rhythms that you have established in your life because of the values that you carry?

As moms and dads you need to establish rhythms of daily devotions time in the Word and praying together to illustrate to your kids the importance of the word the value that God plays in your life. The question is this is Jesus really the center or is he a Sunday morning add-on?

You and I - we are only human. You are special but know that you are one of 7 billion. There's only ONE God. THE God. THE Creator. He made you. I encourage you to take His Advice! Pay close attention to the scriptures we read this morning and next week in regards to money. Take His advice when it comes to rest. Take His advice when it comes to work. There's an art to being human. You can strive. You can struggle. You can stress and you can worry. You can hoard and be bored. OR ... You can learn the art of being human is to acknowledge that you are in fact, human and that you NEED GOD, Creator God AND the advice and wisdom He offers you.

Why heed His instructions? The God who made you has given you instructions and advice on money, time-management & rest. Look for and listen to the wisdom He has for you!

We're talking about how the peace and rest that **only God** can give. There are really two key scriptures for this month.

Matt. 6:33 "Put FIRST the Kingdom of God and all these things will be given to you as well."
James 1:5 "If anyone is lacking peace, let him ask God who generously gives wisdom to those who ask."

God is ready to give you wisdom - all you have to do is ask.

God's wisdom leads to peace - the peace that you've so desperately been looking for.

It turns out that God gave us very specific instructions how NOT to get stressed, how NOT to live chaotic.

He gave us instructions - the first of which is sabbath - putting God first in your weekly routine. Let's start with "first in our week"

SABBATH - PUT GOD FIRST IN YOUR WEEK

When we Sabbath on Sunday, we are acknowledging God's work as more important than our own.

What do I mean by Sabbath?

Sabbath is REST. Sabbath is the first day of week dedicated to God.

We can see that God taught us how to rest from our work in Genesis. In the very beginning, in Creation-God didn't NEED to rest on the beginning but He did rest.

Why?

God loves to give us an example to follow

Genesis 2:1-3 (ESV): 2 The heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

God took a day to rest enjoy the work of His hands (He said It is "good")

He's such a good teacher. He doesn't just say what to do in order that things will go well for us He shows us this principle of surrendering our "firsts" in these areas:

He rests on the 7th day of creation, giving up the job of "work" on His "first" day of the new week. He rested! He taught us when and how to Sabbath.

God rested after 6 days of work. The 7th day marked the FIRST day of the new week.

If God calls something "holy" (set apart as special unto Him) then we should too.

When we take the FIRST day of the week to worship God and rest, we are telling our hearts and telling our minds that GOD is GOD and that we are not.

It recalibrates us 52 times a year, reminding us and our children what is most important.

Sabbath is not just a good idea. It's Creator God's idea. It's a part of His plan. It's not just "oh hey you've been working all week; put your feet up and take a break."

No "sabbath" is about taking a day and giving it to God as an offering - an acknowledgement of God's holiness, God's work, God's supreme authority in our lives. By not taking Sabbath seriously, you're telling God "Well, you're kinda in charge of my life... it depends on the week."

Parents in 10 years, you won't care if you're child is a professional athlete. You will however care if they are a Christian committed to following Jesus. That faith gives them a strong foundation for their marriage and their life.

This is a principle that extended beyond weekly worship.

Every 7 years God instructed His people to let the fields rest.

In Kansas in 2022, they still burn the fields every 7 years. It ensures better crops in the coming years.

A pastor takes a sabbatical - a wise pastor anyway - every 7 years. We have this built in to our documents at Rock of Grace. Why?

A sabbatical enables the pastor to get away and just be with the Lord. To refresh. To refuel. To hear from the Lord. This is why I think Pastors should take a sabbatical every 7 years. It doesn't have to be 6 months or something. It can be 3 to 6 weeks. As long as it's long enough to truly clear your mind and rest and hear from God as to what's next for you and for your ministry.

I was talking with EMERGE Christian Counseling Director two weeks ago. Did you know there's a trend? The pastors who end up really stressed out are those that have never taken a sabbatical - they just go go go - and those who don't have enough margin in their lives. They teach two or three times a week, they have too many commitments and not enough breathing time and resting time.

God gave Moses a command to give to the people of Israel (God's people / US) to set aside the FIRST day of the week as holy unto God.

Exodus 31:12-14 (ESV): The Sabbath

12 And the Lord said to Moses, 13 "You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you. 14 You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you.

So, we know that we now live in what's called "The Age of Grace" and that's an appropriate name being we've been given the grace of God through Jesus Christ. But remember from Jesus' sermon on the mount...

Grace inspires us to live holy and dedicated while the law only instructed us to do so.

Grace changes a heart. Grace makes us want to trust God and be devoted to God and prove that devotion by devoting an entire day per week to God and God alone.

The Lord said it twice that "it is a sign between me and you" a sign of "covenant" Why? "That you may know that I sanctify you."

Making Sabbath a weekly rhythm and RESTING, WORSHIPPING & GIVING is about TRUSTING God's FINISHED work.

There is a rest that can only come from trusting in GOD'S finished work.

Taking Sundays seriously is about trusting that only God can sanctify you - in other words - make things right in your life.

Sin and the act of ignoring God's ways invites un-needed stress in your life.

Refusing to sabbath is living from an Americanized version of Christianity. Us Americans are very independent and we don't want admit need for help. Admitting you need God and your family needs God EVERY Sunday is rejecting the American version of Christianity and accepting the Biblical version of Christianity.

When we come together and experience sacraments like worship and communion together, it's not just that they symbolize the Gospel, they also enact the Gospel. They dramatize our union with Christ, they illustrate what He has done for us and we need that reminder. This is amazingly important for every kind

of learner - those who are oral learners, non literate communities, children, the educated, the blue collar workers, everyone experiences the grace of the Gospel together on the same level in the sacraments of sabbath, worship & communion.

This rhythm of peace of worshiping God TOGETHER every Sunday morning brings about an environment for you and your family to experience and do the things Jesus commanded us to do so that we are reminded of His presence with us.

Communion is a promise of past, present and future. Think about it.

Jesus said "I have earnestly desired to receive this Passover meal with you." In saying that He was alluding to their Exodus from Egypt - their past - their salvation that God miraculously brought about in the past.

Jesus then said of the future "I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom" Here he's giving us a promise. When we have communion together on a Sunday morning - in the RHYTHM God established - we are being reminding of God's promise of a new creation - an eternal heaven that's created for us. *This is important for your children to hear and experience.

Jesus also made them aware of the present - THIS is my blood is which poured out for the forgiveness of sins" speaking of the terrible pain He was about to experience in just a few hours time. "THIS is my body" then saying "Do this in remembrance of Me" saying it's a reenactment of redemption, a physical symbol of our deliverance from slavery, from bondage THROUGH Jesus death and resurrection.

We follow Jesus together when we take communion together. This is why it's important that you take communion together with your church family and don't miss it.

2. PUT GOD FIRST THING IN THE MORNING

Luke 5:16 "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."

Usually this phrase is used in the context of someone promising to deliver goods or services the very next day. Something is owed and the other person will often say "I'll do that first thing in the morning"

Well, what example did Jesus give us for a morning routine?

What did God teach us to do FIRST thing in the morning?

Jesus, the very Son of God, took the FIRST part of each week not only to sabbath and appropriate God to His rightful place, but He taught us to spend time with Father God FIRST thing in the morning.

Luke 5:16 "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."

In all 4 Gospels, we see that Jesus repeatedly would get up early in the morning to pray. He would get away from the crowds, away from even the disciples, to ONLY be with God.

Some personal thoughts on your morning devotional time.

1. Shut your phone off or on airplane mode. *If I was meeting with a congressman, I'd shut my phone off so as not to get interrupted and miss anything he might say to me. How much more important is GOD?
2. Find a place that's the same / yet change up the routine every once in a while. CHOOSING a place provides consistency of "this is what I'm doing first thing in the morning every day" For me, it's my dining room table. YET, when you can, change it up a go a prayer walk or do your devo outside - take in the fresh air God's given us. BUT nonetheless, CHOOSE a PLACE and TIME
3. Make it conversational. Read. Then wait. Stay silent and listen. Journaling is an option.
4. Once or twice a week, do a devotional with a friend. #FollowJesusTogether

Mark 1:35 shows us that Jesus would prioritize His ALONE TIME of prayer with His Father.

Mark 1:35 (ESV): And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

Taking time in the morning to not only pray but plan your day will give you focus and a sense of accomplishment. You'll be able to set goals with the Holy Spirit, then reach them.

If you can't set boundaries for your time, your day will run you instead of you running your day. I've read a few great books on this. One is called Time Bandits. Another is

If you want to have a greater sense of focus and peace in your life, then wake up a litter early and set boundaries for your time. Choose -I will get up at this time. I will read and talk with the Lord.

Then, for me anyway, I found the next most important thing I do is to use Wunderlist App, a task managment app, to prioritize what I have to do, what can wait and what my objectives are for the week. We all make this excuse don't we? "I just don't have time."

One of the most powerful quotes I ever read was from Mother Theresa. She told a reporter once "We all have the same 24 hours in a day. You can choose what you do with your 24 hours."

TIME CAN BE MANAGED. TIME can be well spent. If you don't run your day, your day will run you - leaving you feeling worn out and like you didn't accomplish anything. Starting your day FIRST with prayer enables you to not only have a mission or objectives for work - but KINGDOM objectives. Starting your day with prayer, like Jesus did, puts God in his proper place, FIRST, and then HE will give you the wisdom you need for that day.

James 1:5-8 (ESV): If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

So God tells us what to ask for: WISDOM. PRAY FIRST THING IN THE MORNING and ask God for WISDOM for the day. He'll give it to you!

Then God tells us HOW to ask for it: with FULL FAITH, don't waiver. I think this applies to ALL of us, right?

Jesus death and resurrection made it possible for us to draw near to God every day alone and every week together. He enables us to have communion with God! Hebrews 10:19-25 (ESV): Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter

the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Notice how the Lord tells us to “Hold fast to the confession of our hope” and then tells us HOW to do that.

God gives us a principle and then a practical.

God wants us to “hold fast” to our faith yet that can be an illusive idea to grasp. So to ensure we we know HOW to hold fast, He tells us.

He says “Do not neglect to meet together” and “encourage one another”

Your kids need to see you reading the Bible and praying every single day. Let them SEE your devotion to God.

Psalm 78:3–7 (ESV): “I will tell the things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. 4 We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.”

“He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, 6 that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, 7 so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.”

Parents, if you want your children to live in the blessing of the Lord then establish the rhythms of peace in their life that God has given us.

Let’s talk for a few moments about paradigm - the worldview that you have.

If you don’t have a real sense of rest and peace and joy in your life, then I’ve got ask you “How confident are you in the finished work of God?”

GOD IS OUR SHALOM. JESUS IS OUR PEACE.

SHALOM HAS SO MUCH DEPTH. LET’S UNPACK IT A BIT THIS MORNING

So I wanted to really get a genuine look at what God’s Word said about peace and rest and our need as humans to have peace and rest and really God’s desire.

I listened to a few hours teaching from Rabbi Pinni Dunner on the subject of Shalom and it was fascinating what that word means.
Before we talk about it, let me introduce how it's used in the Bible in terms of prominence.

God was hinting at Jesus in Numbers 6:24 and what JESUS would accomplish on the cross through the Aaronic blessing - when Aaron, the high priest, was commanded by God with specific instructions on HOW to bless people and WHAT to say, he was commanded to say
The Lord bless you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you.
The Lord give you peace.

Shalom is not just "peace" like "have a good day"

Shalom means eternal peace; peace as in "separation from punishment eternally."

That word "peace" was shalom.

But the word "peace" can't adequately translate from the word Shalom. There's no word like it in the English Language.

Because Shalom means so much more than "peace" **Shalom means blessing *with* peace** added.
What do I mean?

You can have blessing without peace.

You can have money without peace.

You can ask God to bless you financially and God can bless you financially and you still not have peace.

You can have health without peace.

You can be healthy and be blessed in that regard yet be without peace because you're fighting with your children or your spouse...

The 7 Books of Moses and the Talmud all describe **Aaron as being the High Priest who pursues shalom. It wasn't that he just enjoyed peace or experienced peace. He initiated peace.** All 7 books of the Moses and the Talmud describe Aaron as bringing reconciliation to two people who were fighting - and he did this often.

For example - Bob and Ed are at odds and arguing. Neither will give in and compromise on being right and deserving an apology.

Aaron would go behind the back of Bob and tell Ed that Bob was sorry and that he wants to reconcile. Then he'd go behind the back of Ed and tell Bob and Ed is sorry and wants to reconcile and be friends again.

Then Bob would meet Ed and say "I'm so sorry too! Please forgive me! And they'd be reconciled."

Now here's the cool part of this!

Aaron is the High Priest.

He has better things to do. BUT, he cares enough about both Bob and Ed that he takes His time to go to both individually, speak with them and foster reconciliation and renewed friendship. Aaron brings peace to the chaos with intentionality.

JESUS is our HIGH PRIEST who brings reconciliation!

Aaron was a picture of who Jesus is and how He speaks to our hearts and invites us to have humility and pursue forgiveness of one another. And although He is high priest, He cares enough about us to initiate our reconciliation with our brothers and sisters.

You can't live at peace with other people if you're not surrendered to the God of peace. If you've had broken relationships and haven't figured out how to restore them, it's because you didn't bring the High Priest, Jesus, into the equation. Jesus and only Jesus, can initiate reconciliation in the hearts of people..

JESUS is the HIGH PRIEST like Aaron who supplies reconciliation.

SHALOM IS ALSO THE NAME OF GOD

So when you say Shalom to someone, you're not only blessing them with peace but you're asking God's name to be upon their lives.

When God instructs Aaron, and therefore us, on how to bless one another, He tells him to say to the Israeli people:

Numbers 6:24–26 (ESV):

24 The Lord bless you and keep you;

25 the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

26 the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

I learned from Rabbi Hersh, another great teacher on Jewish customs and Hebrew language is that in a blessing, each line built upon the other and the last line and the last word was most important.

So while all 3 lines of this blessing is important, the last line and the last word in particular, are most important.

The Lord give you peace. The Lord give you shalom.

Why would the Bible say it like that "*The Lord* give you shalom"

Only GOD can give you this kind of peace. Only God teaches us to forgive one another.

Only The world and it's system will tell you "an eye for an eye" but the Gospel of Jesus will teach you to forgive those who harm you, to bless those who curse you, to give to those who steal from you. Only Jesus teaches us that it's "truly better to give than receive."

The Kingdom is very counter-intuitive until the Holy Spirit comes into a person's life on the day of salvation and they begin to see things as they really are.

The Lord *wants* to bless you. The Lord *wants* His face to shine upon you. The Lord *wants* to be gracious to you. The Lord *wants* to lift His loving demeanor - His smile upon your life and give you shalom/peace. The Lord *wants* to give you so much of His goodness, that it overflows, so much that you're able to give it away!

Again this word "Shalom" means so much more than peace. It means eternally separated from deserved punishment!

It means that someone else paid the price and that you can be forever liberated from any guilt or punishment - you can REST in that paid price. You can REST in the finished work of GOD! Jesus paid the punishment of our sins so we can FOREVER live in the perfect peace of God.

We're going read a good bit of scripture here from Hebrews that kind of ties this all together

Hebrews 3 Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. 2 For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.

3 For we who have believed enter that rest, ...10 God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. 11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Can I summarize this a bit?

The man who tries to pray without a savior insults the deity. He who imagines that his own natural desires coming before God unsprinkled with the blood will be an acceptable sacrifice to God makes a mistake.”

Charles Spurgeon

As a priest, our role is set up tabernacle for man to meet with God. Romans 12:1

In the tabernacle, everything means something. Read Ex 25-40

The tabernacle is a heavenly “service order” for worship.

GOD enables worship as it is HE who liberates His people from bondage and slavery. It is HE who rescued Israel(us) and calls us His special people & family.

We can't forget this principle; GOD makes knowing GOD possible.

We are drawn by His Spirit to know Him.

He invites us into a relationship with Himself.

The tabernacle of Moses gives us a picture of what the weekly rhythms of worship looked like and we can learn a lot for our lives.

Courtyard

In the courtyard, there's a lot of sound. Oxen making sounds, goats & sheep, weeping and repentance... It's MESSY too! Sacrifice is taking place.

Ex 23:15, Deut 16:16 tell us that we should never come to God's house empty-handed. We are to give Him a sacrifice of praise, an offering.

The Gate

Ps 100:4

Enter with THANK YOU! Gratitude is the key to entering into the God's presence. We must show that we are THANKFUL for JESUS.

The Gospel inspires gratitude.

Remember what we said... Before I enter a house, I have to go through the gate and enter the yard and THEN into the house. This is a simple illustration

JESUS is the GATE.

John 10:9

- worship leaders and pastors sometimes try to get people to "get right" (behavioral modification) or even a declaration for the "fire" or the "freedom" yet never say or sing the name JESUS! That's like running them into the wall. You must use the GATE.

If you don't FIRST enter the gate, you won't enter the courts.

If you don't VOCALIZE the name and person of JESUS, you will not enable people to enter in the presence of God, therefore won't see any change in their lives.

Religious services that are not centered on the name and person of Jesus will only leave people guessing, confused and possibly hopeless - if any hope, it's falsely placed in their own efforts - which in Paul's teaching is worse than even rejecting God. The self-made man can never become righteous or enter in to God's holy presence on His own, without JESUS.

See JN 10:1

John 14:6 "I am the WAY, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except by Me." - JESUS

The promised land is not just symbolic of the New Jerusalem / Heaven; it's also symbolic of God's presence. God has enabled ALL people to come into His presence.

Now you know why worship - Jesus-centered worship - is so powerful. There are times at Rock of Grace when people come to Jesus in salvation, in genuine repentance without a sermon even being preached yet. Why? When Jesus is lifted up as Savior, the lost who need saved, sense the power of God to save them.

"When I am lifted up (on the cross) I will draw all men unto me."

Hebrews 5/6

The High Priest

Jesus is the High Priest of Heaven therefore in a way, Jesus is the worship leader. His Spirit inspires worship and praise.

The Servant who finds a bride for Abraham's son is a picture of the Holy Spirit searching for and finding a bride for Jesus.

"Palm Sunday" the Sunday prior to Good Friday was a picture of worship. Jesus as King, comes into the town praised as King, yet humble, riding on a donkey, not a stallion horse.

It's interesting- he didn't ride on a grown donkey - but the foal of a donkey - it was as if he was taking the lowliest form of transportation possible.

A baby donkey - not just a donkey - a baby donkey - His feet maybe even dragging on the ground. LOL

Jesus is the KING of all CREATION reigning triumphant as Lord - yet humbling Himself to the commands of Creator God - to come and give His life. POWER in submission. WOW!

The Altar

EX 29:12

The priest burned the sacrifice after cutting it.

CS Lewis description of the smell of butchered animals is the "smell of holiness" WOW

Why don't we sense that sound of pain/death/repentance/regret for sin/ emotional tears of gratitude in modern day worship? Should we? Could we?

Remember, the tabernacle was a design for HOW to worship a King. Why would Acacia Wood be used?

It doesn't easily rot. Symbol: Purity and resistance to decay. Resurrection / Immortality

Bronze is a symbol of judgement

Dt 28:22-23

Disobedience leads to separation.

Numbers 21

The snakes brought judgment and pain.

The bronze seem

JN 3:14-15 is a symbol of himself - He'd be lifted up on a cross to bear the judgment for our sins.

The bronze serpent

The bronze altar (wood covered in bronze)

Jesus was on the acacia wood cross, covered in judgment JN 1:29 Jesus takes away the sins of the world.

This worship was passionate. Personal. Messy
The religious always rebukes the worship LK 10:37-40
LK 4 when Judas says "Tell her to stop making a scene!" Jesus replies "She has worshiped me since I came in and washed my feet with anointing oil and her tears. You've not done anything like this ..."
Religious: Mad, Cynical, Judgmental (looking for blame in others)
Worshiper: Thankful, Worshiping, Repentance (looking within)

The Horns of the Altar

Mercy. 1 Kings 1:49-53; 2:28

The sinner comes to the cross and cries out for mercy.
The cross shows the judgment of God poured out on Jesus - on the cross 'horns' held Jesus' arms spread out showing MERCY for God's people.

*Access can't happen without sacrifice.

JESUS offered the sacrifice. We MUST look to the cross and celebrate the cross and Christ' sacrifice for our entrance/access.

I urge you brothers and sisters in view of God's mercy, to offer yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. This is your true and proper worship."

We view His mercy when we look upon Jesus on the cross.

Our worship is submission to God - submitted to His Word - to His ways ...

Worship without submission to God isn't worship at all.

He sent His Son to win our hearts and save us - to bring us back to HIS family for reunification with Him.

JN 4:23-24 God is looking for people who worship in spirit and in truth.

The whole POINT of what Jesus is saying is NOT our particulars

Romans 12:1 Worship in spirit and truth is FULL submission to the Lordship of Christ. *Whether there is banners or no banners, KJV or NLT, hymns or brand new songs... The method is NOT the point. The music style is NOT the point.

Whether you're in a barn or a cathedral, a warehouse or a sanctuary ...

JESUS is the point and if you worship JESUS as Savior and LORD and you're gratitude for his sacrifice is a sign that you are worshiping in spirit and in truth. It's a sign that you're living in the rhythms God has established.

The rhythm is WHO you're worship and WHY, not HOW you're worshiping.

The woman at the well here engaging with Jesus, vocalizes the local arguments that took place over style and location. The arguments continue 2,000 years later sadly. The message Jesus gave still rings true: WORSHIP JESUS as your

SAVIOR who became the lamb, sacrificed for us so we could be liberated from sin. In doing so you are worshiping in spirit and in truth. Particulars of doctrine DO matter BUT if you focus too much on the particulars you can miss the forest for the trees, you can miss the togetherness that God loves in exalting Jesus TOGETHER despite differences of opinions on how we should interpret certain scriptures and certain worship practices. Humility is the key here. Humility brings unity.

SUBMISSION TO GOD - our acceptable offering of worship

The (bronze) judgment of God (wrath on sin bc He is HOLY) was put on Jesus. The serpent represents the sin. Jesus became sin, was hung on a cross, lifted up and mocked so we could be lifted up but not mocked but set free. WOW.

What do you need to submit to God? Worship without submission isn't worship at all.

Is there a part of your life - your sexuality - your finances - your temper - that isn't submitted to God, yet you're trying to lead worship? SUBMIT those sins to God. Put them on the altar - bring them to the cross. Look upon Jesus and submit those emotions and sexual desires or tempers or ... to Jesus.

You will continue to feel defeated if you are not willing to submit your sins to Jesus. Ironically, we are only free when we surrender. The Devil's role is Deceiver, Destroyer & Accuser according to scripture. His first aim is to deceive you into thinking that God's rhythm (patterns or rules) are a constraint; in reality, they're a haven of safety. **Mention Gay Girl Good God author's comments on her realizing her need to submit those sexual desires to Jesus in order to let herself be forgiven/made whole and FREEDOM from what Satan wanted. Worship then is a matter of submission - surrender*

Jesus is our High Priest. Jesus offers the sacrifice of HIMSELF to pay for the sins of all people for all time - that includes you and me!

He atones for our sins - He pays for them in FULL.

Jesus is our King just like Melchizedek was the King of Salem. He was the only one to serve as both High Priest and King.

Jesus is our High Priest & King!

He not only offered Himself as the sacrifice by dying on the cross for our sins, He did so out of love and compassion, feeling what we feel, hurting like we hurt. The Bible says He sympathizes with our weaknesses! WOW. He was "tempted in every way like we are!" He was perfect and sinless and the ONLY one who could die for us!

Disbelief in the rhythms and order that God established leads to anxiety - the opposite of peace / ignoring it leads to disobedience which prevented them from entering the rest that God was giving them.

Belief in God and His promises and finished work leads to obedience which is the key to rest & peace in your life.

*REPEAT THAT

Heb 4:3 "For we who have believed enter that rest..."

The REST and PEACE that God offers is FREE. JESUS PAID IT ALL.

But it takes belief.

This is why SABBATH - a day set aside at the beginning of every single week for you and your family to hear from God and His Word is SO IMPORTANT and irrevocably connected to your sense of REST for you and your family. Did you notice what comes next?

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

You see the Sabbath is about STOPPING from your work so that you can HEAR the WORD of GOD which is ALIVE and ensure that the thoughts and intentions of your heart - what's taking place all week long in your heart and mind - is in alignment with the Word of God.

Can you read the Bible on your own? Sure you can! And I hope you do every single day! We talked about that today and Jesus gave us an example - we get to be alone with God the Father every day in solitude with Him. But the Bible clearly illustrates being the people of God TOGETHER - tells us over and over to Tabernacle with God, to worship together, to pray together, to meet weekly to worship God in one accord and to read His Word together.

You can't earn His rest, but you can enter His rest through obedience to the rhythms He has created.

ALTAR SONGS via Spotify

NOTHING WITHOUT YOU - THE WORSHIP INITIATIVE

PERFECT PEACE by Lauren Cypher