

Sermon: The Holiness of Work and Rest.
Series: Exodus: From Slavery to Glory.

Scripture: Exodus 31.
Date: May 28, 2023

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) Do you tend to see your work as a burden or as an idol? In what ways?
- b) How difficult is it for you to rest? What do you think makes it so difficult?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) We said that work is holy because 1) God ordains work, 2) work images God, and 3) our work is a participation with God. Do you struggle to see your work as holy unto God? Which of these thoughts about work can help you?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) Re-read 31:13. Sabbath is a sign between God and his people that defines his relationship with them. In what ways does rest define our relationship with Christ?
- b) Read Matthew 11:28-30. How does Jesus relate rest to work in this invitation? Can you explain how rest and work are related in the Christian life?

APPLICATION

- a) Is there anything in your life that is a good gift from God but you have turned it into competition/earning/performing? Maybe athletics, music, learning, even ministry. How might you return to simply enjoying good things because they are good?
- b) One of the big themes of Exodus 31 is creativity. Re-read 31:3-4. Here God describes the creative gifts given to Bezalel. What creative gifts has God given to you? How might you use your creativity to display God's truth and beauty?

FIGHTER VERSES: Romans 5:1-2.

PRAYER

- Praise God for his grace in using your work for his holy purposes.
- Confess ways that you have made work into a slave master or an idol.
- Thank Jesus for the rest he offers from earning our position in this life and the next.
- Ask God to help you to embrace the holiness of both work and rest.