

# Fourth River -- Sabbath Breaking Remember the Sabbath Day

by Martin Knapp

*The Sabbath is a day of rest and communion with God, essential for our spiritual and physical well-being, and failure to observe it invites God's wrath and judgment.*

**Scripture:** Isaiah 58:13

**Topics:** "Sabbath Rest", "Holy Days"

## Description

Martin Knapp preaches on the significance of remembering the Sabbath day and keeping it holy, emphasizing that it is a day of rest and communion with God and others, preparing individuals for the work God has for them. The Sabbath serves as a type of the heavenly soul-rest awaiting those who follow Christ, a harbor for rest and repair, a temple for communion with God, and a training-school for this world and the next. Knapp warns against Sabbath desecration, highlighting the importance of faithfully observing the Sabbath for various reasons, including God's command, the rest it brings, and the penalties of breaking it.

## Transcript

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is a Sabbath unto the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant; nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." -- Ex.xx, 8-11.

Satan strives to make people think that the Sabbath is an irksome requirement by which God keeps His people from real enjoyments.

This is one of his blackest lies. Instead of that, God purposed it should be a day in which all may rest, and enjoy communion with Him and with each other, that they may thus be fitted in mind, soul, and body for the work He has for them to do.

The Sabbath is humanity's great restorer, in which body, mind, and spirit rest and are invigorated.

It is a God-given type of the perfect and heavenly soul-rest which awaits all who fully follow Christ.

It is a harbor where storm-stranded vessels rest and are repaired.

It is a temple in which our Heavenly Father meets and communes with His children.

It is a celestial observatory from which one views Eternity and its realities.

It is a training-school for this world and the next.

It is our "Lord's-day," commemorating His resurrection.

"If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, and the holy of the Lord honorable; and shalt honor it, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will make thee to ride upon the high places of the earth; and I will feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." -- Isa. lviii, 13,14.

Jesus named some exceptions to the stringent Jewish rule of Sabbath observance. He taught that it is "lawful to do good" upon the Sabbath-day, and that works of mercy, like relieving suffering, are lawful and right. He would have us to be neither Sabbathless worldlings, seeking our own pleasure, nor bigoted Pharisee's, bound by the mere letter of the law. We must honor the exceptions in favor of "doing good" and "mercy" as well as the law demanding cessation of toil.

Sabbath desecration is an appalling and general sin. Multitudes on every side break this law, and are drifting down the River of Death "into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matt. xxv, 41.)

The following are some of the reasons why you should faithfully keep the Sabbath-day:

Because God commands it, and to break His law is rebellion against His government.

Because we all need the rest which its rightful observance brings.

Because the penalty of breaking it is eternal death.

Because Jesus kept it, and we should be like Him.

Because we need the instruction and communion with God which are received through His worship.

There are many ways in which people break this Commandment, and thus displease God, and expose themselves to the certain death which befalls all who persist in sailing upon this great feeder of the River of Death. They

Do unnecessary work on the Sabbath;

Make it a day of pleasure and amusement;

Neglect religious meetings;

Read secular papers and other irreligious reading;

Go to Sunday picnics and excursions;

Needlessly travel on Sunday;

Have worldly visiting;

Lounge and sleep; the night is for sleep; the Sabbath-day for rest;

Write business letters;

Run trains and print papers;

Do secular business;

Go to church simply to see or to be seen.

It is impossible for an unholy person to keep the Sabbath holy. Hence, all who persist in remaining unholy break this Commandment and invite its fearful penalty.

He who is guilty of Sabbath-breaking is like:

A man who would rush from the kind shelter of a friendly hospital to perish on the street;

A disabled ship which would refuse to remain in the harbor for repairs, and so sink in the deep;

A man who would steal the seventh dollar from a friend who had given him six;

An engineer who would run his train, when the boxes are all on fire, until there is a wreck;

A soldier who would disobey the orders of his general;

A person who would fondle a viper in his bosom;

The first Sabbath-breaker of whom it is written, "The man shall surely be put to death;"

Apostate Israel, to whom God said:

"But if ye will not hearken unto Me to hallow The Sabbath day, . . . then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched." --Jer. xvii, 27.

Those who persist in Sabbath-breaking will, in the course of time, feel the lightning-strokes of God's wrath leap upon them. If you are guilty of any one of the following, you are open to His judgments:

Disregard for God's authority, and the penalty thus incurred;

The peril which attends loss of Sabbath worship and instruction;

The formation of evil companionships;

Baleful influence over others;

The reproaches, through all Eternity, of those thus led astray;

Overtaxed energies, a troubled conscience, an offended God, severe judgments, a Christless death, the loss of the soul, and eternal despair;

The sin and penalty both are more terrible when the transgressor is a professed Christian.

Would you like to know how the Sabbath-breaker formerly was punished? Turn to Number xv, 32-36, which tells us:

"And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks upon the Sabbath day. And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. And they put him in ward, because it had not been declared what should be done to him. And the Lord said unto Moses, The man shall surely be put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the Lord commanded Moses."

Sabbath-breaker, will you not listen to Him who says, "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out?" He is able to save, willing to save, promises to save, came to save, is saving millions, and will save you if you will renounce sin, come to Him, and trust Him to do it. "Now is the accepted time. Now is the day of salvation." O, will you not yield at once!

A young man, sick of his wild career, had resolved to live 'a different life, and had turned his steps toward the house of God.

Just as he was about to enter, an old chum saw him, and prevailed upon him to go with him to a Sunday resort.

On the return home he fell from the train, and was crushed, and soon died.

While dying, he called for the false friend who had turned his steps unto the fatal snare of the Sabbath breaker, and, as his life-blood was oozing away, he fixed his eyes upon him, and said:

"That was bad business, Joe, you taking me away from church, When I 'm dead, I want you to tell the boys that it was drink and Sabbath-breaking that did it; and while you are telling them, I'll be in hell, and you'll be to blame for it."

**REMEMBER THE SABBATH-DAY** Rena Ray, in Michigan Christian Advocate

A young lad, the only child of a widow, came from a home of beauty and wealth in the city to a rural town in which I lived to spend the summer, that he might roam at pleasure over the greenfields and hills, and receive health from the fresh, invigorating air.

He was a sprightly, clever boy, and won the heart of every one that saw him, He was always in motion, running, hopping, shouting, and singing, and his power of imitation was so rare that he could mimic surprisingly the birds, lambs, calves, and even the clatter of the mill. Indeed, every sound that he heard was re-echoed by him, and thus he passed the time merrily away.

I was a year older, and of a graver turn than he, but I loved him so well, though, that I would have spent all my time with him if I could.

One Sabbath morning -- I shall never forget that morning -- I started out alone for church, my mother being ill and my father abroad. I walked briskly along at first, for the bells were chiming and the organ was pealing out solemnly on the air; but by and by I stopped to listen to the birds that were singing cheerily among the trees. While I was listening, the cool west wind fanned my cheeks, and I cast my eyes wistfully

over the green fields toward the river and the beautiful hills, and, although a still small voice whispered, "Remember the Sabbath-day," I yielded to temptation, and went astray.

But I did not go astray alone. No, I met with Ned Darley, the boy from the city, who was on his way to church, and I persuaded him to go with me over the green fields down to the river, to spend the hours of sacred rest in quest of diversion and pleasure.

Ned loved the river; so did I; loved to wander beside it, to skip stones over it, to watch the frogs, to catch the fish, to wade and to swim in it. But we had not come prepared to fish, and we soon grew tired of skipping stones and watching the frogs, so we went into the water. At first we only waded hither and thither, splashing the water gaily about, and singing and shouting in the joy of our hearts; but by and by Ned took to diving and swimming and performing little fantastic evolutions.

He moved about with such ease and grace that it seemed as if the water must be his native element; but suddenly he shrieked wildly, put his hand to his head, and sank beneath the wave, I was wild with terror, and I cried out despairingly. It was all I could do. Alas, I could not save him.

Many years have passed by since then, but the boy drowned in the river haunts me like a specter. His cry rings ever in my ear, and I think ever with sorrow that if I had remembered the Sabbath-day poor Ned Darley would be living now, and his mother would not have died broken-hearted.

O, friends, when you are tempted to withdraw your foot from the house of worship, and wander off in pursuit of diversion and pleasure, think of my lifelong anguish and remorse, and remember the Sabbath-day!

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Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/martin-knapp/fourth-river-sabbath-breaking-remember-the-sabbath-day/>

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