



HOPE  
LOWERTOWN  
ST. PAUL

THE CRY OF THE SOUL OF

*Nehemiah*

# **This Weeks Sermon**

*“What is it?”*

*Nehemiah 13:15-22*

What is the Sabbath?

## Nehemiah 13:15-22

<sup>15</sup> In those days I saw people in Judah treading winepresses on the Sabbath and bringing in grain and loading it on donkeys, together with wine, grapes, figs and all other kinds of loads. And they were bringing all this into Jerusalem on the Sabbath. Therefore I warned them against selling food on that day. <sup>16</sup> People from Tyre who lived in Jerusalem were bringing in fish and all kinds of merchandise and selling them in Jerusalem on the Sabbath to the people of Judah. <sup>17</sup> I rebuked the nobles of Judah and said to them, “What is this wicked thing you are doing – desecrating the Sabbath day? <sup>18</sup> Didn’t your ancestors do the same things, so that our God brought all this calamity on us and on this city? Now you are stirring up more wrath against Israel by desecrating the Sabbath.”

## Exodus 20:8-11

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

## Exodus 31:12-18

<sup>12</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>13</sup> “Say to the Israelites, ‘You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy.

<sup>14</sup> “ ‘Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you. Anyone who desecrates it is to be put to death; those who do any work on that day must be cut off from their people. <sup>15</sup> For six days work is to be done, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day is to be put to death. <sup>16</sup> The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant.

## Exodus 31:12-18

<sup>17</sup> It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.' "

<sup>18</sup> When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the covenant law, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.

## Jeremiah 17:27

<sup>27</sup> But if you do not listen to me, to keep the Sabbath day holy, and not to bear a burden and enter by the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then I will kindle a fire in its gates, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem and shall not be quenched.' ”

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## Ezekiel 20:12-13

Moreover, I gave them my Sabbaths, as a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them. <sup>13</sup> But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness. They did not walk in my statutes but rejected my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live; and my Sabbaths they greatly profaned.

We got no food!

## Nehemiah 13:15-22

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## Exodus 16:1-5

The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. <sup>2</sup>In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. <sup>3</sup>The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the LORD’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.” <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. <sup>5</sup>On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.”

Exodus 16:1-5

They set out from  
between Elim and Sinai  
and they had complained again  
because they had no manna.  
They grumbled against  
Moses and Aaron and said,  
"If only we had died  
at the hand of the Lord  
in the land of Egypt!"



## Exodus 16:1-5

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This is a major test of faith for an  
agricultural society

What was “what is it” like?

## Exodus 16:31

It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey.



It is a shame that such a wonderful divine provision should have come about as a result of faithless grumbling on the part of the people. How much better it would have been had the Israelites prayed patiently and trustingly for God's answer to their lack of food a month into their exodus journey. Grumbling is hardly to be commended and is not in itself worthy of reward. God, however, still *heard* it and graciously responded – not in kind, that is, with a poor quality provision suitable for grumblers, but with a miraculous, tasty, nutritious, and sufficient food, exactly what he would have sent if they had prayed faithfully in the first place.

His goodness to his people is not dependent on their willingness to respect him as they ought. This is not to say that respect for God's will is irrelevant to his rewards, only that his temporal, as opposed to eternal, rewards often do not correlate with our temporal behavior.

We've been here before haven't we...

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## Nehemiah 13:15-22

<sup>19</sup> When evening shadows fell on the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I ordered the doors to be shut and not opened until the Sabbath was over. I stationed some of my own men at the gates so that no load could be brought in on the Sabbath day. <sup>20</sup> Once or twice the merchants and sellers of all kinds of goods spent the night outside Jerusalem. <sup>21</sup> But I warned them and said, “Why do you spend the night by the wall? If you do this again, I will arrest you.” From that time on they no longer came on the Sabbath. <sup>22</sup> Then I commanded the Levites to purify themselves and go and guard the gates in order to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember me for this also, my God, and show mercy to me according to your great love.

Are there any Sabbath Correlations in the  
NT?

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NT?

Hebrews 10

**If Church  
were your  
job, would  
you still be  
employed?**

**"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." KJV**

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Do we make Church a priority?

Do we make Church a priority?

OR

Do we make our Saturday nights a priority?



**Patrick Ray**

53 mins · 



I read theology all week. I listen to people lecturing about theology all week. I take breaks from studying theology to read theological articles. I've heard many people in situations similar to mine say "Since I study all week, I don't feel a need to go to church on Sundays."

This misses the point of the Sunday gathering. Sundays are not primarily for learning, but for remembering what God has done in Christ, and what God will do through Him.

I will continue to go to church gatherings on Sundays for as long as I am a great sinner, and Christ is a great Savior.

Bread from heaven

## Matthew 6:9-13

<sup>9</sup> “This, then, is how you should pray:

“ ‘Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,

<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come,  
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.

## John 6:25-40

<sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

<sup>28</sup> Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

## John 6:25-40

<sup>30</sup> So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

<sup>32</sup> Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

## John 6:25-40

<sup>34</sup> “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup> But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. <sup>37</sup> All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. <sup>40</sup> For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

# Gospel Application

*Do we make going to church a priority?*

# Gospel Application

*Do we make going to church a priority?*

*Do we depend on God for our daily bread, or do we first try to fix it ourselves...over and over....*