Into His Rest, Pt. II
Delivered - 7 May 2023
Scriptures - Philippians 4:6-7, 10-13

Intro

Last week we talked about how kingdom rest is not something that is given, it's something that is entered into. The world knows nothing of this rest that is available to God's people. The world can't live from a place of rest, they can only manufacture rest; financial cushions that give a sense of security and stability, nice homes in safe neighborhoods, vacations, hobbies, groceries stores filled with everything you need…the world has developed limitless ways to give itself the sense rest. But kingdom rest, the rest that God Himself enjoys, is not like the world's rest. Kingdom rest is only found in Him. He doesn't give His rest exclusive of Himself. To do so would be to deny His goodness in giving us His best. HE is the gift…and all of His blessings are found in Him, including true rest.

I want to take some more time this week, and even into next week, to dive deeper into kingdom rest. I believe for us to be the house that God is building for Himself we must be a people marked by rest.

This is actually something the Lord showed Lindsey and I very early on when we came to California last year.

When we met Roger and Roxanne, I came up here for a few days to fast and pray about their invitation to become part of the Pearl family. It was June 27, 2022. I was praying in the chapel and the Lord spoke 6 things to me.

1) the significance of this building as it relates to our assignment as a family
2) people will come from all over the nation to be part of what God does here
3) for the traditionally churched, Sunday mornings will be a touch point into the deeper things of the kingdom of God
4) two things that are personal
5) two things that are personal

And finally; "This chapel is a womb. If we want it to produce life then it must be a place of rest, covenant, and intimacy."

Rest, covenant, and intimacy.

Intimacy speaks to worship and our first love devotion to Jesus.

Covenant speaks to family, commitment to one another and to Him. I believe it also speaks to communion…"this is My blood of the new covenant."

Rest speaks to His tempo, His pace, His rhythm…and how it stands in opposition to the rhythm of this world. When He says that producing life is contingent on being at rest, He's not saying we need to clear our calendars and not be busy. He's giving us an invitation to enter into His rest. Kingdom rest isn't manufactured by clear calendars and Spotify playlists. Nothing wrong with vacations or Spotify playlists, but if He's going to shake everything that can be shaken, we can't be a people looking to the world to teach us how to find rest. Because when everything is shaken, God intends for the church to show the world how to find rest. "'Come out from among them and be separate,' says the Lord" (2 Cor 6:17). In that day, the answer for the world's chaos will be a people at rest. Mark says that the demoniac in Mark 5 ran up to Jesus and worshipped Him. I believe that man realized that the answer for his internal chaos was in Jesus. And his response was to pursue the something He had never seen before…a man at rest.

Just before this happened with the demoniac, Mark tells the story in chapter 4 of Jesus speaking to the storm on the sea and bringing it into rest. The wind on the sea of Galilee was out of order, so Jesus rebuked it and brought it into order. When something is in chaos it's always going to look for a man who can bring it back into alignment with its designed order. You say, "how can wind look for something?"

> Creation groans for the revealing of the sons of God (Romans 8:19).

I believe there will come a day when you live in such an atmosphere of rest that strangers will come up to you asking you to pray for them to receive the rest that you carry. Some of you may already be there and already know what I'm talking about. Chaos always

seeks order. God didn't design certain things to be at rest and other things to be in chaos. He's a God of order. Anything that is in chaos is looking for a son to bring it into order. The problem is there are so few people who carry the quality of peace that has the ability to bring chaos into order the way Jesus did. But that's not the chaos' fault. Chaos doesn't want to be out of order. Wind isn't designed to destroy and tear down, kids aren't designed to be addicted, spouses don't get married hoping to fall out of love one day. Those situations are the result of this fallen age, and the relentless assault from the god of this age. And each of those situations of chaos are groaning for the manifestation of a people who can bring them into rest. Could it be that there is chaos around you because its hoping you are the one who can finally bring it into order? Instead of getting frustrated at the drama and chaos around you, try seeing it for what it is; chaos looking for peace.

Recap peace that passes understanding

We mentioned peace that passes understanding last week. That comes from Paul's letter to the Philippians. He says in Philippians 4:6-7,

> "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Peace that passes understanding looks like you being at rest even in the midst of shaking and trials. God's design is not that He removes His people from all of their trials, but that He enters into His people's trials with them. The world knows nothing of this kind of peace that comes from God being with a man in his situation. All that the world can hope for is manufactured peace; a vacation, a nap, no traffic, their politician to get elected, the kids finally getting to sleep, the stock market going back up. There's nothing wrong with those things…but if they determine the measure of peace you experience, I'm sorry, you are not in His rest…not to the degree that He intends for you to be anyway. Kingdom people are content in all things (we'll get to that in a minute).

So if we ourselves aren't living from a place of rest, not only are we missing out on our inheritance, but the testimony of Jesus in the earth suffers, chaos finds no one to bring it into rest, and the world doesn't see an accurate picture of the kingdom of God.

Two things about rest that I want to flesh out more today; union and contentment.

Point 1: Union - Kingdom rest is only found in the King

This is expanding on something we discussed last week. If you weren't here, listen back to the message.

I made the statement last week that when you are not at rest it's not that peace has escaped you, it's actually a warning that you aren't living in Him, you're living in your circumstance. When you aren't at rest, your situation has successfully gotten your eyes off of Perfect Peace and onto something inferior. That situation is warring against the testimony of God in your life. By stealing your attention, your situation is stealing your worship and your peace. As real that situation is to you, it must be seen for what it is; an enemy that is inferior to Jesus.

> All things have been placed under His feet.
>
> In Him all things hold together.

He is superior to all things, including the big scary problem trying to steal your peace.. When I take my eyes off of Jesus and give attention to something inferior happening around me, He is still there and He still wants to reveal God to my situation, but He's just overshadowed by something I'm giving more attention to.

The moment you give more attention to your problem than you do to the God of your problem is the moment you take ownership of the problem…because you're no longer in Him, you're in your problem. The agitation and anxiety and fear you feel are designed to serve as an announcement that you've left the safety of the shadow of His wings. It's like when you put your hand on something hot. The pain you feel is healthy in that it serves to pull your hand away from the danger. In the same way, the feelings of unrest are healthy in that they serve to pull you back into Him.

If you are in Him then you will not be anxious for anything, you will not fear anything. He is perfect love, and perfect love casts out all fear. Fear can only exist outside of Him. If you are in Him, fear is not allowed. In John 16:33 Jesus says,

> "…in Me you will have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But don't worry, I have overcome the world."

The word that Jesus uses that we translate "tribulation" can also mean oppression, distress, anguish. That's the world's bread, not yours. In Him you experience rest in all things.

So how to we remain rooted in union with Jesus?

Communion and worship.

Communion

Jesus says in John 6:56,

"Anyone who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him."

As we take communion, we become one with Him. Communion takes me deeper into the One who has no end. I picture it this way…not sure this is exactly how it works, but the image is something that helps me understand; say, for example, I'm in Oklahoma and a massive F5 tornado is coming my way. I'm told there is an underground bunker near where I am. So I run to the bunker. Now, when I get to the bunker, I'm not going to be satisfied to just stand inside the door of the bunker…I'm going as deep into the belly of that thing as I can. In the same way, Jesus is the bunker that keeps me from the storms swirling around me. His broken body and shed blood brings me into Him, but I'm not satisfied to just stand in the doorway. The world outside is determined to drag me down and suck me out of my place of shelter…so I'm going as deep into Jesus as a man possibly can in this life. Regularly taking communion helps me do this. And the deeper into Him that I go, the deeper into rest that I live…and the storms outside have no chance of pulling me from rest.

Worship

How does worship bring us deeper into union with Jesus? First, when I say worship I don't just mean singing songs. If singing songs is all that worship is to you then I have good news (especially if you can't sing)…there is a world of worship that is available to you, of which, singing songs is just one part…a beautiful part, and a powerful part, but one part nonetheless.

The first mention of worship in the Bible is in Genesis 22. Abraham is going up to Mount Moriah to offer up his son, Isaac, on the altar. Abraham tells the men who are with him in v5,

> "…the boy and I will go up and worship and we will come back to you."

I've heard people point to this passage and say "worship is sacrifice" because Abraham was going up the mountain to make a sacrifice to the Lord. That's fine, worship is definitely sacrifice…the Bible talks about making a "sacrifice of praise." But I believe it wasn't sacrifice that defined what Abraham was doing as worship. It was faith. The first mention of worship in the Bible wasn't a moment of sacrifice, it was a moment of profound faith. Abraham said, "…the boy and I will go up and worship and *WE will come back* to you." Abraham didn't understand how, but he knew he and the boy were coming back. And even if he was to offer his son as a sacrifice, God was able to raise him up (Hebrews 11:19) and both of them were coming back down the mountain. God received Abraham's FAITH as worship.

And when something is trying to steal your peace, by fixing your eyes on Jesus and not your circumstance, you are choosing to believe that your time is better spent in worship than in coming up with solutions. And you'll find how effective of a weapon worship can be at bringing chaos into order.

Just like Abraham, God receives your faith in the midst of your problem as worship.

The point is; your situation wants to rob you of your faith to believe that Jesus can keep you in perfect peace. So you have to see your circumstance for what it is; an enemy of the kingdom trying to lie to you about who the King is. Your storm wants you to believe that Jesus doesn't care…and the fact that He's at rest and you're not is proof that He doesn't care. Remember, this was the disciples response when Jesus was asleep in the storm. They wake Jesus up and accuse Him of not caring that they're about to die.

If your storm can steal your worship, then it can bring you out of union with Perfect Peace. But if you can worship in your storm, if you can show chaos what faith looks like, no storm will ever have the authority to steal your peace. Oftentimes, this as simple as

stopping, turning your attention back to Jesus, and saying, "Lord, I worship You. I believe that You are exactly who You say You are. I give you my affection in the midst of this storm. Calm the storm if You want, bring Me through the storm if You want, cause me to linger in this storm longer than I would prefer…but either way, I trust You because I know You're IN IT with me." Approach the chaos around you with that attitude of worship and watch things start coming into order all around you.

Point 1: Kingdom rest is only found in the King
Point 2: Being at rest is being content in all things
I want to look at Philippians 4:10-13. The context of what Paul is saying here is the church at Philippi has just given him a gift to help out with a need that he had. You could say the book of Philippians as a big "thank you" note from Paul to the believers in Philippi. He says,

> 10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again…
> 11 I have learned in *whatever circumstance* I am in to be content:
> 12 I know how to be abased and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.
> 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Most of us want v13, but we must realize we have to go through v11 to get there.
"I have learned to be content in whatever circumstance I am in," is a declaration of trust that keeps us in rest. And it's as we are content in all things that we can then declare, "I can DO all things." Kingdom life is not God taking away all of your trials. Kingdom life is you being at rest in the midst of your trials. That's a kingdom the world knows nothing of.

Point 1: Kingdom rest is only found in the King
Point 2: Being at rest is being content in all things
Point 3: Kingdom rest comes in seasonal rhythms
Being content in all things means understanding the seasonal rhythms of the kingdom.

When Israel was in the wilderness, how much manna would they gather on the 6th day of the week? Twice as much; because on the 7th day, the Sabbath, there was no manna. God was teaching His people the rhythm of having abundance and experiencing need. On the 6th day, their was excess because on the 7th day there was need. If you squander your season of blessing you will suffer lack in the season of need, and it will be very difficult for you to enter into the Sabbath rest.

For Israel to sufficiently enter into the Sabbath rest of the 7th day, they had to rightly respond to the abundance God gave them the day before. God was teaching His people to be content in all things; abundance and need…the 6th day and the 7th day. In the kingdom, it's all the same because He's the King of all seasons, whether seasons of increase or seasons of need…He's the Lord of the 6th day just as much as He is Lord of the Sabbath.

For the kingdom person, contentment and rest spring from complete readiness to accept whatever God gives. The kingdom man makes no distinction between the basic essentials of life and the extravagant abundance of overflow. He simply gives thanks in all things.

In the kingdom, the mark of contentment and rest is not self-sufficiency or self-sustainability…the mark of contentment and rest is trust in ALL things…AND the freedom to give to others.