

Scars of the New Jesus People - Rest

Delivered: January 28, 2024

Scriptures: [Deuteronomy 12:5-11](#), [Hebrews 4:1-3](#), [Matthew 11:28-30](#), [John 16:33](#)

Intro

In [Marks of the Cross](#), Bob Gladstone says,

“Divine rest leaves a scar that signifies our death to fear and striving and our resurrection to the Messiah’s peaceful rule.”

Kingdom rest is not the absence of activity. The rest that Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection makes available to us is not a feeling of well-being. If that’s all that His rest is then there is nothing unusual that Jesus offers the world that a trip to the day spa can’t also accomplish. Anyone can strategically remove activities from their schedule and experience that kind of rest.

So what is the rest that Jesus makes available to us...the kind that leaves scars on His people?

POINT #1 - Kingdom rest is entered into

[Deuteronomy 12.5-11](#),

5 You shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go.

9 for you have not yet come to the rest and the inheritance which the LORD your God is giving you.

10 But when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies round about, so that you dwell in safety,

11 then there will be the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide.

Two things to point out here:

First; God was bringing His people into a place of rest. It was in a specific location where He Himself was going to rest among His people...and His presence there was going to cause that place to be a place of rest. God wasn't just bringing His people into rest, He was bringing them into HIS place of rest.

Second; geographically, where were God's people when He was speaking to them here in **Deuteronomy 12**? They were on the east side of the Jordan River. They were not in the Promised Land. **v9** says,

“you have not yet come to the rest and inheritance which the Lord is giving you.”
Why not? **v10**,

"But when you cross over the Jordan...then THERE will be the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide" (**Deuteronomy 12.10-11**).

The rest that God had for His people required a crossing over and entering into.

Kingdom rest is always entered into. There is a crossing over that must take place before one can inherit this measure of rest...because it's His rest, and it is only found where He is.

So, POINT #1 - God's rest is entered into where He is.

POINT #2 - Our salvation does not guarantee rest...not in this age anyway

Hebrews 4.1-3,

1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them (Israel); but the word which (Israel) heard did not profit them, not being united with faith in those who heard it.

3 For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: “So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest’

The same Israel that was rescued from Egypt failed to enter the rest of the Promised Land, **Hebrews 4** makes that clear. They had been completely saved from slavery to Pharaoh....which was a type and shadow of what Jesus saved us from; slavery to sin.

Israel's failure to enter rest had nothing to do with Pharaoh, it had nothing to do with Egypt, it had nothing to do with growing up in slavery. Their failure to enter rest had to do with what they believed *after* they were saved.

Our failure to live free from restlessness has nothing to do with our personality, our past life of sin, generational curses...because we have been saved from all of those things. Our failure to live in rest is Israel's failure to enter into their rest...it was a lack of faith in who this God is that saved us from the tyranny of slavery.

Damon Thompson says this,

"We have a tendency to say faith is for salvation and we miss that there is a faith AFTER salvation...a faith for now living life in the kingdom. And so many have been saved and yet they've never lived."

Or, I would add, they've never rested.

Israel's salvation was complete, their enemy had been completely done away with. Egypt would never be an issue for Israel again...just as your previous life of sin, and what we inherited from Adam, or our generational curses, or how many levels of free-masonry your great grandad achieved...it's all been done away with...Jesus became a curse for you to save you from all of that.

The faith that the Holy Spirit gave us the moment we got saved, saved us completely. And that faith is designed to then give birth to a confidence that says, "if He can save me from Pharaoh...if He can save me from addiction...if He can save me from self-hatred...if He can save me from (fill in the blank), then what CAN'T He save me from?"

How will he who did not spare His own Son but delivered Him up for us all, not also freely give us all things ([Romans 8.32](#)).

And true kingdom rest is the inheritance of all who believe that Jesus is who He says He is.

Salvation isn't our inheritance. Rest is our inheritance.

Salvation isn't the destination. Salvation is the starting line.

And if you're saved and restless, then hear the invitation of [Hebrews 4.1](#) today:

“a promise remains of entering His rest.”

So let your salvation be a witness that there is a promised rest for all who would cross over and enter in to true rest.

POINT #3 - God's rest is only found in God

He does not separate Himself from His rest so that you can experience peace apart from Him. He invites us to Himself to live and move and have our being in Him...where there is nothing but peace.

Matthew 11.28-30,

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

I want to look at the Greek word that we typically translate "give you rest" in v28, because it seems to contradict POINT #1.

The Greek word is *Anapauo*. Nowhere else in the New Testament is *anapauo* translated "give rest", because that's not what *anapauo* means. *Anapauo* means to:

bring into rest,

to bring to an end and make cease (for example, when someone dies their grave is their “resting place”...life has ceased and they have entered into the after life).

The invitation Jesus is giving in Matthew 11 is not that He will give away rest to anyone who is tired and comes to Him. Jesus is saying,

“come to Me and then let Me bring you into My rest.”

“Bring your chaos to Me and let me bury it in My resting place.”

The point is, rest and internal peace will only be found IN Him;

not *from* Him,

not *around* Him,

IN HIM.

You can't snatch and grab peace from Him like you would a quick protein bar when you're hungry but don't have time for lunch.

True rest, the rest that God Himself enjoys, can only be found in Him. Meaning, we don't invite Him into our day and ask Him to bring His rest into our situation. We bring our life into Him and He tells us what is allowed to come and what isn't. The anxious worry about things you can't control...not allowed in His rest. The fear over being misunderstood ...not allowed in His rest.

So you have then have the choice; will I let go of those inferior things, cross over the Jordan and enter into His place of rest, or will I choose to hold on to worry, fear, offense, and build my life on the wrong side of the Jordan River? Still saved. Still free from Pharaoh. But not living yoked to the Prince of Peace...not living from rest.

When we are not at rest, it's not that rest has left US, it's an announcement that YOU have left HIS rest. You're not living under the shadow of His wing...you're living in your circumstance...you've shifted your eyes off of Perfect Peace and surrendered authority to something inferior.

Being in His rest doesn't mean you don't feel the effects of difficult circumstances; The Prince of Peace was in agony in the garden (Luke 22.44). But it does mean that those feelings no longer control you ("Father, not My will but Yours be done" - Luke 22.42). Feelings are just that; *feelings*...an emotional response. And when rest is no longer just a feeling, but a positional reality of being IN CHRIST, then our emotional response to difficulty will submit to the higher reality of WHO we are and WHERE we are; born again sons and daughters of God, who have entered into our inheritance of rest, living in union with the Prince of Peace who has overcome the world.

Too often our response to difficulty is to try and convince Jesus to come into our situation and sprinkle His peace on it and make it all better. Does He remove obstacles and challenges and temptations? Yes. But that's not Him bringing you into His rest...that's His grace saving you from drowning. It's not that Jesus people never experience storms...it's

just that Jesus people are able to now sleep in the storm...that's what His rest looks like. That's peace that surpasses understanding. That's Paul saying in **Philippians 4.11**,

“I have learned to be content in all things.”

If you have the rest that can sleep in storms, then you have the authority to calm the waves.

So when Jesus looks at the exhausted crowds in **Matthew 11**, who are weighed down underneath the burden of religion and law, His response to their situation is not to give them the gift of rest...His response is to **invite** them into His rest. “Come to Me, and I will *anapauo* you...I will bring you into My rest.”

Conclusion

John 16.33 (NASB),

“These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace.

In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

In Him is where our peace is found.

The promise is not that trials and tribulations won't come. The promise is that the effects and the feelings and the chaos of those trials will no longer have control over you... because none of those things are allowed in Him. He has already overcome all of those things...so be found in Him.

Getting your schedule under control is important. Eliminating hurry is essential...because those things position us to prioritize Jesus in our daily rhythm over the inferior things that we busy ourselves with. But let that be a practical method of prioritizing Jesus in our daily rhythm.

True rest is a person...and that Person has invited all who are weary to come to Him and let Him bring us into His rest.