

A) The Father is always working, Sabbath rest, what does this therefore mean?

III- Paddington and Dog on the escalator - In the film "Paddington", the lead character, Paddington the Bear is on the underground system in London, he is lost and needs to descend an escalator, as he is about to step onto the escalator he see a sign "Dogs must be carried", Paddington, misunderstanding the sign, interprets it in a different way. The next scene is Paddington descending the escalator, carrying a dog!

III- Dog on the lead, how we look at the law
We can often look at laws in various ways. In our country, we are asked to keep "dogs on a lead". Many just ignore it, assuming that their dog is immune to this law due to various reasons, from size to temperament. Others follow it, despite it sometimes being restrictive. We understand the concept; a handler must fully control it's dog. What if, the dog had a lead on it, but the lead wasn't held by the handler? Is this showing that we are fulfilling the letter of the law, but not the spirit of it?

Does God work on the Sabbath?

"According to Genesis 2:2-3, on the seventh day of creation week God rested (the Heb. verb is šābat) from his creative work. Does God, then, keep the Sabbath law? If not, does not God himself become a law-breaker? But if he observes the Sabbath, who keeps the universe in running order while he rests? Philo, a Greek-speaking Jew heavily influenced by Hellenistic writers, frankly denies that God has ever ceased his work of creation. The consensus amongst the rabbis, too, was that God works on the Sabbath, for otherwise, Providence itself would weekly go into abeyance. About the end of the first century, four eminent rabbis (Rabban Gamaliel II, R. Joshua, R. Eleazar b. Azariah, and R. Akiba) discussed the point, and concluded that although God works constantly, he cannot rightly be charged with violating the Sabbath law, since (1) the entire universe is his domain (Is. 6:3), and therefore he never carries anything outside it; (2) otherwise put, God fills the whole world (Je. 23:24); and in any case (3) God lifts nothing to a height greater than his own stature (Exodus Rabbah 30:9; cf. Genesis Rabbah 11:10)." - D. A. Carson

Why was God allowed to work on the Sabbath, wrong thinking?

The wrong thinking is finding creative ways to explain the fact that God was working on the Sabbath, with no real attempt to understand what is behind the idea and statement, there is no attempt to understand the Spirit of God on these matters.

Why God “works”, What it means to define rest to us?- The pinnacle of creation

The right way is to comprehend what the Sabbath was created for, and why after creating humanity God defines himself as resting. He has at this point reached the pinnacle of His creation, male and female, in choosing to “rest” at this point, God highlights the place of humanity in the creation system, we are at the Zenith, the highest point, the ultimate, all this is conveyed by “rest.”

How do we treat the Sabbath?, What boundaries have we put in place?, Which ones have we crossed?, How are they impacting on the “rest” that God has created for us, once a week?

We often can find our lives out of balance, skewed, and this is where a Sabbath brings balance and harmony, God’s Shalom to us. This is only if we are willing to critically assess how we are presently using this gift from God?

Reflection- Take some time to reflect on how you have taken this gift from God and used it?

B) Jesus' opening defence, “As I watch my Father, so I do.”

This passage is a legal defence highlighted by the use of the Greek

"Jesus responds to their charge; he offers his defence. The fact that the middle voice of this verb is so regularly attested in legal documents"-D. A. Carson

Jesus is now responding to his critics with the hope of showing those with wisdom. "Who he is".

"But when Jesus said "My Father" instead of the usual "our Father," used by the Jews, He claimed to be equal with God."- Warren W. Wiersbe,

It is clear that Jesus is revealing his understanding that He is God, and therefore if God is allowed to work on the Sabbath, so is Jesus

"For this self-defence to be valid, the same factors that apply to God must apply to Jesus: either he is above the law given to mere mortals, or, if he operates within the law, it is because the entire universe is his.....Jesus insists that whatever factors justify God's continuous work from creation on also justify his.." -D. A. Carson

Jesus also implies that "Just as the fact that the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath can be used to defend the actions of Jesus' disciples (Mk. 2:23-28), so the fact that Jesus' works fall into the same category as his Father's works serves to exonerate the man who carries his mat."- D. A. Carson

Father shows the Son everything, the concept of designated Heir

In our culture, the concept of a "designated heir" is fast diminishing, yet in Jesus day, fathers passed skills to their sons, with a view that the son would join in with the family business. No greater honour could be offered. Thus by linking the "Son" and "Father" together, Jesus is using an established metaphor appropriate for His time

"It might be better to say that such a view of sonship is presupposed by Jesus' words: most sons grew up in the trade or profession served by their fathers."- D. A. Carson

C) Judgement and Life

III- Who leads in ballroom dancing?

We can often watch great performances by a those who ballroom dance, but who is leading?, The greatest of those who dance have reached a mindset where they are "one in thought and action", each knowing their part and complimenting the other on theirs.

Who chooses who is saved, the Father or the Son? In the time when Jesus spoke the concept of the right to judge was always considered to be God's. Jesus comes and expands this view by demonstrating the Father's trust in the Son, by giving this "right" into His hands. "Perfect Sonship involves perfect identity of will and action with the Father"- D. A. Carson. Jesus judges, but only as the Father guides.

Jesus is not sweet and fluffy as many have held Him out to be, Jesus is the God of justice, but with mercy and compassion, He will judge fairly, but this is based on Him showing a better way to those who will listen.

One in Action, One in honour

"One in action (John 5:19–21). The oneness of the Father and Son is seen in that "the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can only do what He sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does." Jesus' actions perfectly reflect the Father's will....One in honour (John 5:22–24). Jesus perfectly reflects the Father, for They act as One. Now Christ went on to claim that He has authority to judge."- Larry Richards

It is, therefore, a challenge to those who would know the person of Jesus and to understand His sacrifice to grasp that the honour due to the father is the same honour due to Jesus, and if Jesus is not honoured, neither is the Father.

"Honour Jesus and you pass beyond all condemnation, out of the realm of death into life."-Larry Richards

This is a great quote when we consider what "out of the realm of death" means? For us to be loosed from all areas of control that being within the "borders" of death implied.

How do we honour Jesus, in what ways are our lives reflective of this? How are we demonstrating that we are people who have passed out of "the realm of death?"

D) The three Witnesses- John, Testimony and Miracles.

Jesus now moves to a new legal argument of witnesses, that of the witness. Jesus uses, John the Baptist, Jesus own declaration

about Himself, and Jesus miracles. Each He argues shows that His claims of deity are true, Jesus has tasks to accomplish through teaching and miracles, they are there to place the foundation of righteousness so that judgement can be just, and be seen to be just? "His progressively revelatory 'works', including his 'signs', teaching and divine authority as life-giver and judge, are designed in part to make his opponents marvel (cf. 10:38). That may be their first step toward faith."- D.A.Carson

It is how we respond to the revelation of God which shows our faith, how have responded to the call of our Creator, do we move towards his teaching with humility, or do we still hold Him at arm's length.

E) Moses

The Jews were failing to serve God, for they failed to acknowledge who Jesus is? The Jewish authorities venerated Moses as the "bringer of the law", yet continually misunderstood the purpose of the law, which was always to point the way towards God's chosen Messiah. Jesus always argued that Moses would never have made this mistake, Moses always knew the limitations of the law, and it's purpose. The Bible records how Moses' face changed whenever he exited from the "tent of meeting", in effect when Moses gazed upon God; he was physically altered as God's glory reflected upon him. (We might understand the concept through the effect of sunburn upon our bodies if we spend too much time in the bright morning day.) Even with this personal relationship, Moses understood that it was nothing compared to that of the coming Messiah. Moses testimony, argued Jesus, was that the Messiah was the important one, and the law was to provide evidence and ability to recognise Him when He came. Jesus claims of divinity lead us to understand that unlike Moses, Jesus could Gaze upon the Father and reflect perfectly who He is, as the "Father and He are One."

F) Application

The Answer is no good if you asked the wrong question, ask the right question?

Who is it we listen to?, Are we only giving lip service to following Christ, what is it he asks us to do as a response to who he is?

Those who do not love the son does not love the father; It's Jesus or bust, other ways are wrong.

Two futures, where do we wish ours to be? (in judgment and the and of death, or passed beyond it's boundaries to life in Christ.

Where does this lead us to keep the Sabbath? How are we going to reflect on our walk

"In the Hebrews passage this 'sabbath-rest' is part of a pattern of 'rests' in the Old Testament: the seventh day, the rest of entering into the Promised Land, the promise of rest in the Psalms. The conclusion is drawn that there is still rest for the people of God, a rest that can be entered and enjoyed by faith in Christ. This is a rest from dead works, a joyful participation in the salvation that has already dawned in Christ. None of these details is spelt out in the Fourth Gospel; but all careful readers of the ten commandments would understand that each Sabbath rest is a pointed commemoration of God's original seventh-day rest (Ex. 20:11).- D. A. Carson,

With Jesus we are "Gazing into the face of God", "The Son by his obedience to his Father is acting in such a way that he is revealing the Father, doing the Father's deeds, performing the Father's will. The Son is 'exegeting' or 'narrating' the Father"- D. A. Carson