

Sabbath, Hebrew for rest. Creational 7th day, with instructions God gives to not work, and man added more, but it is not created to prevent help to neighbor, to prevent acts of love. They lay traps for Jesus with Sabbath controversies. Of course now with the Sabbath, the day of rest for you is everyday in the new covenant, **Come to Me I will give you rest.**

Jesus has compassion, heals the man and exposes them, exposes what is in us all. Now that word, dropsy, edema, painful buildup of fluids in the body. Interesting connection too, edema, used in ancient writings to picture greed. Greed, like a disease, your painfully bloated and you have an insatiable desire for more fluid. Jesus shows compassion to heal and with a wedding feast parable, exposes their greed of power, fame, control, most especially their pride,

Pride, the deepest corruption of our sinful nature; said to be the mother of all sin. To lift oneself above others, even above God, to think you know what's best. Pride, the original sin of the devil. Archangel Lucifer, light bearer, cast out of heaven due to his pride warfare breaks out. Pride, at the heart of Adam and Eve in the fall, to exalt oneself above God. Pride lurks in our hearts. Thus the great call of our Lord, summarized in one single pride-destroying word. Repent. Change your mind. Humble yourself. Confess your sin, be forgiven, reconciled to God.

Pride threatens daily to destroy your faith. And if we come to the wedding feast on the Last Day without that garment, without faith, we shall be cast out. Repent. This is not an idle threat. Humble yourself and wait for God to exalt you.

Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, he who humbles himself will be exalted. Jesus isn't just teaching etiquette, He's exposing our sinful tendency. Think we're better than others, better than those people. Pride, so often why you get upset; are cold to people; or don't help. Because you're more important. Humble yourself; realizing your condition before God, a sinner, unworthy, deserving nothing good, deserving nothing but shame and wrath; and how to be humble in service to others.

Our exaltation is not in earthly success or goodness, but in Christ being lifted up on that hellish tree, the greatest humiliation the world has ever known. He did not come to be exalted here. He did not come so you could be exalted here. He didn't come to just teach lessons. He didn't come so all your dreams come true, all your problems go away, you no longer struggle, have all kinds of success. He came: to be a sacrifice for you. This is who He is. A sacrifice for your sins. Humbled in our flesh, humbled upon a cross so you can be exalted with Him in eternity. This is why He comes.

Many want greatest in life more than what our Lord gives us here -can't be found. Many long for greatest in the Church in other ways than liturgical worship in Word and Sacrament -can't be found; God's power, glory found here in Word,

water, bread, wine. These, His greatest gifts. We find Jesus in the humbleness He comes to forgive you, gives you life. Bind your wounds, heal you.

It is a scandal. Why He loves you is beyond all telling. A mystery He would have so much love for the likes of you. But He does. He will exalt you in good time. His promise. His love beyond all measure for you.

He borne the worst of man, the worst of you, He has put it to death. Despite your pride, many sins, He still loves you. For even as He knows your pain and sorrow, so also He borne your guilt, suffered it on your behalf.

So, too, He know your complicated life. He knows both the evil and the good in your heart. He knows your struggle to believe, to do good, to be fair, to tell the truth, to walk away from temptation, to be humble, gentle; and how it hurts when you don't. Despite this He is not ashamed of you. He loves you. Answers for your sins.

Here's something to think about, what are the most difficult parts of the Bible to read? I don't think it's the lists of genealogies; not all the Leviticus instructions or the deep proverbs poetry. I think the most difficult portions to read, we heard today. The Epistle, St. Paul begs believers **to walk worthy of their calling with complete humility, gentleness, patience**. Also Colossians, **To walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him by bearing fruit in every good work, growing deeper in your knowledge of God, being strengthened with His endurance**. Also Philippians, **to conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, standing firm**. Those are difficult to read, meditate upon, as you think about how you've lived, what you've done. Lord have mercy, Lord help us. Work upon us. Give us strength. But also know, as St. Paul writes, **there is no condemnation for those in Christ**. At the cross, Jesus doesn't say "earn this" or "make yourself worthy" but, **It is finished**. He does it all by grace to have you, in the joy of the gospel, **To walk worthy of the Lord**.

You are baptized. His works go with you. Live intentionally, to walk worthy of your calling, complete humility, gentleness, patience. Do your duty, be a man of God, be godly women.

And soon, one day when you breathe your last, He will say to you, **Friend, move up higher**. Your place at the wedding feast in heaven. As you await that day, come, take the lowest place at His wedding table, that is, come in all humility before God as a repentant sinner. No one comes to the Lord's Supper any better or higher than another. All are unworthy to take part in the feast.

Friend move up higher, right here, today, now, honored guest of the Lord. He does it all to have you, now, here, eternally. To feast with you, to join Himself to you. Take your place as He cleanses you of pride, feeds you His grace. For here the Lord bestows to you the greatest honor that heaven has to offer, to receive His true and living body and blood, as a baptized, forgiven child.