



AUGUST 9, 2020

LOVE FIRST, FIRST LOVE

WEEK DEVOTIONAL BASED ON SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP SUNDAYS 9:00AM AT
WWW.FIRSTLUTHERAN-BARRON.ORG OR ON THE RADIO 97.7FM

Leviticus 25 summarized by Compassion Camp

The people of Israel journeyed through the vast wilderness for many years. Finally, they arrived at Mt. Sinai where they rested. God gave instructions to their leader, Moses, for their life together in this new land. These were the things God said: In this land, we will practice sabbath together. This will happen not only on the seventh day but on the seventh year. For six years, we will do our regular work and plant seeds, we'll grow, prune and harvest fruits. But, in the seventh year, we'll let the land rest. Even the land needs peace and quiet. Everyone will be able to harvest and eat whatever the land gives us in that seventh year. In the fiftieth year, we will celebrate Jubilee together. This will be like the sabbath every seven years, where we'll let the land rest. It will be a fresh start for the whole community: the land and the people, and everyone will go to their own homes and be together in joy. It is a holy time, and we will be fed and nourished by whatever the land gives us. In this time we will respond with justice by giving fresh starts. This means that we will be fair and honest to one another. We will take care of those who are sick, alone, old, or need help. We will welcome people who are from different countries, and they will be like family. We will work for people's freedom. We will all work together to help everyone rest and rejoice in God's abundance. I will bless the land during this year so you do not have to work the land. I promise we will all be fed and nourished by the land's gifts.

HOLDING IN PRAYER

For health and healing we pray for: Lois Schultz, Valeri Scheps, DeAnn Anderson, Eugene Olson, Ron Kahl, Kathy Weghorn, Betty Missling and Gail Larson

LET US PRAY...

Joyful Spirit, your loving hands are always creating freedom, release, and fresh starts! Help us do the same today by caring for all living things with gentleness and care. Open us to humbly receive that same care ourselves. Make our hearts smile and our actions sing with your promise of abundance toward the whole world. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMPASSION FOR THE WORLD

TAKEN FROM COMPASSION CAMP

COMPASSION GIVES US A FRESH START

By creating fresh starts, we work with God to care for all and participate in the holy work of renewal so all may joyfully gather at the table together, receiving God's abundance. Through hearing God's instruction in Leviticus 25, we learn the meaning and history of "Jubilee" and see how rest/sabbath, fresh starts, and taking care of one another are all important forms of compassion and justice.



Do you imagine it's like equal treatment: everyone gets the same amount of food or treats? Often, God's ideas are very different from ours. God's idea of justice looks more like all the ways we've talked about compassion. Seeing and welcoming. Being brave and honest. Loving ourselves. Being present with each other. It means we see God's abundance. What does abundance mean? It means there's enough for everyone. We can welcome all to the table. We can be brave and trust each other. We can be honest with our hearts. We can give and receive care. And, we can do the work with God to care for all of creation.

Practice Sabbath together

Celebrate Jubilee together

Respond with justice by giving fresh starts

God's compassion IS God's justice. And working for God's justice, making things right, releases God's abundance into the world, making sure everyone has what they need. When we rest, and help people and the land to rest, we show God's justice. When we gather together at the table in joy, we show God's justice. When we care for those who need the most help, we show God's justice.

Justice, making things right, is what happens when we are compassionate.

These are the ways we show compassion:

- Seeing and welcoming
- Being brave and showing up
- Loving ourselves
- Being present with each other
- Fresh starts

And when we do these things, we show God's love, peace, and justice with the world.

IMAGINING

What were does it feel like to rest?

Why do you think it's important to have a fresh start?

How do you imagine the people of Israel felt about this command?

How do you imagine the sick, lonely, or old felt about this command?

