

"Sabbath"
Isaiah 58:9b-14 and Luke 13:10-17
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What do you do special on Sundays? Mr. Mawakasunga always likes to make French Toast for breakfast for his family. He uses day-old Italian bread in one inch slices and he uses pure maple syrup from Vermont that does not have high fructose corn syrup in it.

"The flowers are lovely dear," said Mrs. Mawakasunga. "And you've used the good china!"

"I can smell the vanilla and cinnamon flavor Daddy," said Elizabeth. "Yum!"

"Remember to place your napkin on your lap, Child" reminded Aunt Gertrude.

After they finished eating and before they headed off to church, Mr. Mawakasunga washed up all the dishes and put everything away. And then he wiped all the counters clean. He does this most Sundays! Some folks may think that is too much work, but Mr. Mawakasunga does it because it is the way he shows LOVE (show heart) to the people most important to him.



Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. What do you do special on Sundays?

Some people used to think that you should never work on the Sabbath. They felt that was a good way to keep the Sabbath holy. You see, because God rested on that day, they also wanted to rest on that day. And that is good thinking! So "not working on the Sabbath" became a rule.

So one Sabbath day when a crippled woman came near, Jesus called to her and laid his hands on her and she was healed from the disease that had crippled her! You might think that just putting your hands on someone is not a lot of work, but I suspect that that kind of healing takes a lot of energy and is indeed work!

So what do you think the people said who saw this happen?

Did they say "Holy Smoke, look what Jesus did! That is wonderful!" . . . Nope.

They said "Ha ha! We caught you! You healed the crippled woman on the Sabbath and that breaks the rules because that counts as work!"

These folks were so intent on 'keeping the rules' about not working that they missed the LOVE (show heart) Jesus showed to the woman.

Showing LOVE is important on the Sabbath, but then, we all know that showing LOVE is important everyday!

Now, there IS something special you have done this very day, which being Sunday, means that it is the Sabbath, and it is MOST important. In fact, lots of people in this building have done it.

We have come to show LOVE (show heart) to our God and Savior Jesus Christ. This is what the Sabbath is about – the specific and deliberate worship of God within the community of other Christians!

I am glad that you have come to church today and have helped to keep the Sabbath holy!

THE END