

Jesus IOI

“Grace Thoughts”



IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE,
YOU ARE FREE INDEED!
JOHN 8:36

A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

Jesus said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.” –Mark 2:27

Bob Atchison, a man fascinated by the Alexander Palace in Russia, shared an insightful anecdote. “For generations before Alexandra [The last Russian empress] the Russian Imperial family had loved flowers. Catherine the Great treasured her roses in Tsarskoe Selo and had special guards assigned to protect them year-round from the harsh climate and accidents. Once an Imperial order had been given it was followed until rescinded. Over a century after Catherine died Nicholas and Alexandra discovered a guard still stationed to protect a long vanished rose of Catherine’s.”*

Can you imagine that? Imperial guards, standing there for more than one hundred years, guarding, without reason, a rosebush that no longer existed? Jesus wanted to make sure that this did not happen to His followers. He realized that many were keeping a Sabbath Day of rest but were rejecting Him. (They were just standing there, guarding a tradition while at the same time rejecting the real Rose of Sharon!) Others kept talking about Sabbath laws and making the day a burden instead of a celebration of their Creation and Redemption. This was the case with the Pharisees. Rabbinic traditions, with an eventual list of thirty-nine unlawful works, had created man-made restrictions that veiled the real meaning of the Sabbath Day. But this holy day was designed to be a feast of remembrance and restoration, reminding us that we are children of the Creator-Redeemer. As the disciples were picking the heads of grain on the Sabbath (Mark 2:23), the Pharisees complained to Jesus that they were doing what was not lawful, interpreting their actions through legalistic lenses (see Deuteronomy 23:25; Exodus 34:21). In response, Jesus affirmed the Sabbath Day and the real reason for the Sabbath: “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27, 28). Our weekly Sabbath rest reminds us who we are in Jesus. May we rest in His accomplished work for us!

**Bob Atchison, “A Romanov Passion for Flowers,” Alexander Palace Time Machine (blog), accessed on April 15, 2019, <http://www.alexanderpalace.org/palace/blog.html?pid=1213306016379451>.*