

# **The Marriage Covenant #4**

## **(The Fourth Commandment, "Time off Together")**

Sunday October 8, 2000

This morning we shall continue our mini series on the marriage covenant. Thus far we have taken the Ten Commandments of God in Which I believe it was God's way of showing us how to establish and keep sacred our relationship between God and man. I believe also these ten Commandments which God gave to man were not only meant to show us how to establish and hold dear our relationship with Him, but I believe that these ten commandments are also a vital means whereby we may hold dear and build up our own relationships beginning with the relationship established in marriage.

The first two commandments we examined were, "Thou shalt have no other". This commandment not only applies in our relationship to God but in our relationship to our spouse as well. Not only did the Lord tell us "Thou shalt have no other God besides Him", but He also told us that we should make no thing an object of our worship or affection that would get between He and Thee. And we found that principle applies to the marriage covenant as well, if we are to not only establish, but build up our relationship.

Last week we examined the Third Commandment that the Lord God said, "Thou shalt not worship the Lord thy God in vain". We found the words "in vain " to mean a carefree or careless attitude where it becomes common to you. As we applied this commandment to the marriage covenant we found it essential to keep the marriage relationship alive and vibrant by never allowing out relationship to become old and worn out. He

said "Not in Vain" and vain means useless, or to take it lightly.

In fact the AMPLIFIED translation says, "*You shall not use or repeat the name of the Lord your God in Vain, that is, take it lightly or frivolously, in false affirmation or in profanity, for the Lord will not hold guiltless the man who takes His name in vain.*"

Jesus told us, "*How be it in vain do they teach for doctrine the commandments of man, and by your traditions you make the Word of God on non effect.*"

And the same holds true of the spouse in our marriage covenant. That is why if we apply this commandment to our marriage covenant, we will never take our marriage covenant lightly. To do something in vain shows there is no thought being placed upon what you are doing. You take it lightly, and you do not think of what the consequences will be.

Therefore, we should always be striving to better our relationship, not only with our Lord but with our spouse as well. We can see then how God has given to us the Ten Commandments, not as LAW to be obeyed, but rather they were given to us to establish and confirm our relationship with the Father. These ten commandments help to guide us, and protect as well as show us the proper way to establish the atmosphere of Love and respect that is needed in not only our relationship to the Father, but to one another. We have discovered in our study that these Ten Commandments were also given to us that we might apply them in our Marriage Covenant.

This morning we shall examine the Fourth Commandment in view of the Marriage Covenant as well. In order to do so, let's open our Bibles to Exodus Chapter 20.

**EXODUS 20:8** *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*<sup>9</sup> *Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work* <sup>10</sup> *But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates:*<sup>11</sup> *For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

As we examine the Third Commandment, we find that there are several things that God is telling us here. First of all he says, **REMEMBER** the Sabbath Day, to **KEEP** it... Then He tells us this is not to be like other days, where we labor and do all of our work. It is to be a special day, a day of rest, a day of remembrance.

Now the first thing here is that God calls for us to simply remember this special day. The Word Remember here is a Hebrew Word Zakar, which simply means: *to remember, or call to mind or make a memorial.*

It seems however in our culture we are much better at making memorials to our dead than we are to the living. In almost any city, not only across America, but throughout the entire world, we can see statues in the center of the town which have been placed there to remember some figure

that was considered an important person to that place. We have the Vietnam memorial, We have the Washington memorial, and the Jefferson memorial and the Lincoln memorial. These are all memorials to the dead. Every graveyard across this great country is lain with memorials to our dead. We mark the place of their final rest, But why not a memorial to the living? Why not mark the place of the Living. Why not remember the living?

It seems the closest we come is once a year when we celebrate an anniversary, and that is supposed to make up for a year of un-attachment and labor.

I don't think God meant for it to be that way. He says to us, you labor and work 6 days per week, and on the seventh I want you to do nothing. No plans, no work, no labor. I want you to simply remember the week, remember the labor, and remember the work and rest. This is a time you have set aside for our relationship to be strengthened. This is a time of remembrance. It is a day of memorial. It is a memorial day.

He says, first, I want you to remember this day, and then I want you to keep it. That word Keep that God used is a Hebrew word "qadash" and it means to set it apart from all other days. To honor and observe it as a special time. To keep it or consecrate yourself to it. To regard it with the utmost honor and respect.

God worked six days and labored in His creatorial work, but then on the seventh day He ceased from all His Work, and He rested.

**Vines Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words** says, *"The Word Sabbath means to cease or desist. The idea is not that of*

*relaxation or refreshment, but of cessation from activity."*

As I have already stated in this series on the Marriage Covenant, I believe these Commandment of God were not to be taken as laws in a legalistic fashion, but were rather meant to help create and establish a relationship between God and Man. But what happened is that men made these commandments into law and then the law became a burden rather than a refreshing memorial to a wonderful relationship.

And I think we have done the same in the marriage relationship. We have taken a relationship between two people where we could hardly stand to be apart. Where we planned time together, to enjoy the company of the one we love. Where two people took the time in courtship to get to know each other, and it did not matter if we planned out our time, or if we just sat together and listened to the wind blow and the grass grow. It was a special time, where we were oblivious to everything else but each other. A time when we could talk on the phone and say nothing. Just to hear the breathing of the other meant something special.

But what has happened to those quality days. Where is the memorial to those wonderful days of heaven on earth? I will tell you what has happened. We had to break the second commandment first, and that is "Not in Vain". We come home from a long week of work just to find more work at home.

Instead of a day of honey in the rock, we have a day of Honey dew. Honey do this and honey do that.. And because we have allowed our lives to become so complex, we can live together for 50 + years and never spend any time together alone like we did in the beginning and just listen to the breathing of the One we love.

God used the dew of heaven to bring forth manna to feed His hungry people. We read in **NUMBERS 11:9** *And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it.* The significant thing about this passage is that the time when the dew settles down upon the earth is the time when all is at rest. It is in the earliest stages of the morning, when everything is sound asleep when the dew comes. And God likens His dew to his Word, coming in and saturating all that lay at rest beneath it.

**DEUTERONOMY 32:1** ¶ *Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. 2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:*

Notice the tenderness in which the Lord shall bring forth his Word. It will distil as the dew, as the small spray upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass.

I like the Amplified Translation here.  
AMPLIFIED VERSION : **DEUTERONOMY 32:2** *My Message shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the light rain upon the tender grass, and as the showers upon the herb. For I will proclaim the Name and Presence of the Lord.*

God is telling us that His Word, is most effectual when we are at rest. When we are in a condition where we are not busying ourselves with other matters. He says, Look, You work six days a week, but the seventh day I want for you to do nothing, to plan nothing. I want this time to spend together, building our relationship by simply laying in each others presence.

**EXODUS 33:10** *And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand [at] the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man [in] his tent door. 11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle. 12 ¶ And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight. 13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation [is] thy people. 14 And he said, My presence shall go [with thee], and I will give thee rest. 15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not [with me], carry us not up hence. 16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? [is it] not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that [are] upon the face of the earth.*

As we know Jesus is the fulfillment of the Word of God .In Matthew 11 we hear Him tell us that if we would just come into His Presence we would enter into rest. **MATTHEW 11:28** *Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and*

*I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

I believe that Jesus showed us how we might enter into this relationship with the Father that we so long to have. And in doing so, He has also shown us how we might build up the relationship we have with one another as Husband and Wife. He says, I am your Sabbath, I am your rest. Come into my presence and rest.

Now the thing we must not forget is that God said because you have labored and worked all week long, I want you to take some time to rest . In Hebrews 11 we read, **HEBREWS 4:9** *There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. 10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God [did] from his. 11 ¶ Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*

Now, the key to entering into this rest is that we have been laboring. For if we just sat around the house all week long and did nothing, then the rest spoken of here would not be a refreshing, but just more non-productive time. God worked for 6 days and then the 7<sup>th</sup> He sat back to enjoy what He had accomplished in the other 6. Therefore, before we go any further I just wanted to make this point lest we get the wrong idea and become sluggards in our Soul. In **HEBREWS 4:11** we read, *¶ Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*

Another thing I would like to point out here, is that just as we need to be in the Presence of our Lord Who is the Word, to find rest and a ceasing from our own works, so too a presence of our



spouse ought to offer us a time together where we cease from our works.

In the message **Flashing Red Light**, Brother Branham said, *“Notice, there is nothing that God could give a man outside of salvation better than a nice wife. There's no man can console, no person can console a person when they're tired; they'll won't confide in anyone like they do their own wife. And what a fortunate thing you brothers are when you've got a nice little wife that's clean, and upright, and moral, and you can come in when you're tired and weary and set down, and she can talk to you. She can do more with you than anybody else. That's right. She's a jewel; she's a queen.*

Instead of the honey dew this and honey do that, we need to consider that time together doing nothing is more important to our relationship than continuous work. It takes a Presence to bring true rest and refreshing.

**ACTS 3:19** *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;* Now this refreshing is a word which means to recover from the effects of, or to revive. And we see here that spiritually it takes the Presence of the Lord to bring us into that atmosphere which will bring us this refreshing.

Then If this is true of our relationship with the Lord, there must be a similar pattern that we may partake of in our marriage relationship. A refreshing that comes from the presence of our spouse.

I truly believe that the Lord would have us keep a special time that we can spend together doing

nothing. We seem to be in such a rush in our society today that we run around all day long and get very little accomplished.

### **LETTING OFF THE PRESSURE 62-0513E**

35 *We are living in a neurotic age, nervous tension. Everybody's racing here and going there, and going nowhere. It's just at that kind of an age. And I know this church would be plagued with it as everywhere's plagued with it. Tabernacle's plagued with it, everywhere, the whole world. It's a day of pressure. Hurry, hurry; hurry, hurry; hurry up and wait. Drive ninety miles an hour and then--to get home for supper and wait two hours till it gets ready. That's right. It's--it's the time. And in that rushing and speeding it gets you to a nervous tension; the wife say something a little contrary, you want to fly off: temper. Husband say something, you'll pat your foot and tell him to get in the room. See? "Well, now husband, I don't want no words with you; go out there." "Wife, oh, I'm so nervous." See? Why? What's the matter? See?*

38 *All this together, this tension building up, then the results of it is doing something wrong and acting out of place. That's right. Now, it'll make the poor act that way; it'll make the middle class act that way; it'll make the rich act that way. It'll make the wrong act that way; it'll make the pretty good act that way; and it'll make the good act that way; because it's tension, steam built up. Got to blow it out somewhere. See? If you don't, you blow the boiler up. Now, we find that. It*

*builds up as the day goes. You talk to your boss if you're working, "Oh, so-and-so." And if you speak to the kiddie, "Come in here." "Mama, I'm..." See, there you are. It builds it up. Ooh, my. See? You feel like you're going to--head's going to come off. I know; I'm with it every day. So I--I know what it means. It builds up.*

*40 I was... Thought of this the other night. I was at a certain hospital. And our pastor, I thought he was sick; but he had just wore out: run, run, run, run till he just exhausted. And some of them said, called up... They called in the office down there and asked if I'd make his calls. Well, I'd been with business acts all day, and ministers from different places, and I said, "Yes." Well, I went to make his calls. And I went to a certain hospital. And they give me a woman's name and a--and a number where she was at. I goes up to this room; I went over to the lady at... It--it was about fifteen, twenty minutes before receiving time for visitors, so I went over and told the lady I was a minister and would like to see certain, certain woman. She looked me in the face, and she was doing something. She turned around first, said, "So what do you want?" And I said, "I would like to know where a certain, certain lady is in this ward." She said, "I don't know." I said, "Well, I was given a number, a certain place, and I thought I'd ask first." Said, "Well, if you got a number, go see it." "Thank you." I goes down there and said at the door of the ward, and I said, "Is there a lady in here named so-and-so?" "No." Well, I went back and looked at my ticket; that's where it said. So I goes back, and the lady was standing there; I said, "That was the wrong number." "What did you say her name was?" I said... Said, "She's not on this floor." "Thank you." I said, "I'll go upstairs then."*

*41a So I goes up to the next room, and I went to the... First, there was a doctor setting at the desk, and I--setting there scratching his head. Said, "How do you do?" He just looked up, looked down. "Well," I thought, "I'd better leave him alone." So I went on down the row a little farther, and I found lady at the desk, a nurse. I said, "Pardon me." Said, "What do you want?" And I said, "Is there a lady up here by a certain, certain name?" And she said, "I don't know." And I-I said... She said... I said, "I was supposed to have a--a room number 321--or 221." And I said, "I went to that room, and there was no one there. And the lady said, 'There's no one down here named that,' so said, 'maybe it was upstairs.'" And she said, "Well then, why don't you go to 2--321 then." I said, "Thank you." I goes down to 321 and I said--or 22--321, and I said, "Is there a lady in here named So-and-so?" "No." There was a lady laying there, said, "She was across the room, across the room over on--on the other, 31." "Thank you, lady." I walked over; I said, "Is lady So-and-so here?" "No, they moved her out; she's downstairs."*

*41b I thought--I thought, "My." I goes back downstairs again; I-I... And she--they--they give me the room number. And I went downstairs, and I looked all... I was afraid to go to that desk again, so I looked all up and down, trying to find that room number. And I-I looked; and couldn't find it. They got little wings and things cut up in this hospital, so here come this doctor walking down with his stereoscopes in his hand and satchel. And I never did see a man was four foot tall and four foot wide, but he just about matched the... He was walking along there; I said, "Good evening, sir. Could you tell me where room number so-and-so was at?" He said, "Up this way and out that way." I said, "Thank you for your*

information." That's the truth; he said, "Up this way and out that way." And I said, "Thank you." I thought, "I haven't got anywhere yet."

42 I looked back, and there was a kind of a kind looking lady standing at the desk again. I walked over to her, and I said, "Good evening." She said, "How do you do?" I said, "Lady, I'm all confused." And I told her my story. I said, "There's a lady here somewhere that's going to surgery in the morning, and she's near death. I'm a minister, and our pastor up there couldn't make his calls, and they give me this number." She said, "Just a moment, Brother Branham, I'll find out." She... "Well, I thank--thank the Lord." She laid down everything, and walked over there, and got... "Oh," she said, "yes, Brother Branham, she is in room so-and-so to your left, right there. I said, "Thank you very much." I turned around and looked, and I thought, "That's it, letting off the steam."

45 Everybody... It's just becoming a--a neurotic age. Everybody's all built up, haven't got no time. And that builds up to a place that it breaks up things, it causes people to have hard feelings when they snap them off and--and say things you don't mean to say. Now, everybody's guilty of it. I'm guilty; you're all guilty, We--we do things under pressure that we wouldn't do otherwise. So they's a--they's an excess pressure built up today. I believe, before I go any farther I might say this: I believe it's the enemy coming down and pressing. I believe it's the devil. And we know the coming of the Lord is at hand, and the Bible said in the last days that the devil would go about like a roaring lion. And if he could get you under pressure, hurrying, running over something, you'll make decisions that you wouldn't make if you'd set down and think it over.

48 *About three years ago I was on a hunting trip, and I had a Indian guide. And I--I hunt real fast. That's stuff--that's just me (You see?), one of them pressure builders. So I--I was hunting with the Indian, and I jumped off the horse. And there was some elk up on the mountain, and I started around the bend. And the old Indian was about ten year's older than me; he was just a puffing coming behind me. I said, "Come on, Chief, come on." Said, "Too fast too fast." I thought, "Oh, well..." I said, "Come on." I started, and he said, "Too fast." I slowed down next gear; "Too fast." And I got down to a walk, "Too fast." Oh, my. I said, "Chief, the elk is up there." He said, "Him stay there; he were born there." I said, "I guess that's right." "He stay there; he were born there." He said, "Preacher hunt too fast, scare all the game away." Said, "Do like Indian: walkum once, lookum nine times."*

51 *Well, I wonder what kind of a gear I'd have to get in to get down there. Where I was on a run up the mountain, he said, "Walkum once, then lookum nine times. Look all around over everything nine times before you make another step." Oh, my. But you see, he's in no hurry. I thought of that. And my precious old mother that's in glory tonight... Someone said, "Why don't you wear a white flower today, meaning your mother's dead." I said, "My mother's not dead; my mother's a-living. And then I'd wear a red one, and then people'd say, 'I thought your mother died?' So to keep from confusing them and building up more steam, I just left it all off." See? She's not dead; she's asleep. She's with Christ.*

54 *And then the nervous, neurotic age that we're living in... And you know, in all of this the doctors don't have the answer, 'cause they're plagued with it too. They don't have the answer. They don't know what to do. You say, "Oh, doctor, I--I--I'm just about to blow my head; I don't know what to do. I..." "Well," he'd say, "I am too. Well, there isn't nothing you can do." He'll give you a tranquilizer, and when that wears off, you're more nervous than you was in the first place, like a drunk man taking a extra drink to get over his drunkenness. You see? So you--you can't do it. There's no answer; they don't have it. But God has the answer. That's what we want to take--talk about. They have the answer; God's got the answer. He is the Answer. Christ is the Answer to every problem we got.*

You know, God made man in His Image, male and female made He them. And if Jesus is the firstborn amongst many brethren, and we are to be conformed to the image of God's only begotten Son, (Rom 8) then if He could say, "**Come unto me ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest**", then the True believing husband or wife ought to be able to do the same for one another.

**HE CARETH FOR YOU 60-0301** 55 *God gave man a wife to comfort him, to touch him. And any man knows, that's got a good wife, there's something about a good wife that can... A man be upset in his business or--or his walks of life, and can come home; no matter, there's no one, no doctor... It is that way with me. When I come from overseas or somewhere, and I'm so nervous and upset, and loss of sleep. And--and hear the cry, and seeing the little hungry children on the street, and, oh, crying and going on, it just kills me. Then when I come home, if wife will set*

*down on the arm of the chair, put her arm around me, and say, "Oh, Bill, I--I understand it, you know." And just a few little pats from the wife mean so much: same thing, a husband to a wife. That's the way God want it to be.*