

WHISPERS OF GOD

Sabbath Snow

So, I grew up in Austin, Texas where we seldom had snow. In fact, my earliest recollection of that kind of weather was the blizzard of '61 when we had 2 inches. Not enough to build a snowman, but we managed to craft a snow-snake or two, and with tremendous effort later that afternoon, a snow-hamster. Sad as that is, there was this one spectacular Christmas that would surprise us about twenty years later. . .

By then I was married and had three little boys, as was my older sister who had a small boy as well. That year they would travel from Waco and we would travel from Ft. Worth to gather for Christmas in my parents Austin home where my younger single brother and our pre-teen sister were also gathered. With my brother-in-law serving as a busy Anglican priest and me busily serving as a Baptist pastor in our respective churches, getting a couple of days off at the same time to gather together was no easy task, not to mention our constantly busy wives chasing around young children. So we welcomed the rare opportunity for a Christmas family gathering before we all had to rush back home to our congregations. But then it happened. We got snowed in!

It actually started on Christmas day and kept snowing the day after which brought the city of Austin and surrounding area to a snowy white stand-still. The city was just not equipped to handle large amounts of snow. So we had a snow day. Several of them in fact. And we got the very rare chance to stay tucked in, relaxed, and therefore really be able to enjoy our families far more than we ever imagined.

Ahhh

None of us have ever forgotten that fairy tale Christmas.

So what's the "Sabbath" part of the snow story? Well it's simply this. When God gave us the gift of the Sabbath to observe in every cycle of seven days (whether you see Sunday as day 1 or Monday as day 1), He never intended it to be



a heavily restricted and policed observance like the Pharisee's made it back in the Biblical era. He intended it to be a day of welcomed rest, relaxation, worship, and joy with family, friends, and most of all, Himself. He designed it to be restorative and refreshing to our souls. In short, a "snow day" like we had in Austin that one magical year. And here's an amazing truth: He wants us to enjoy that every seventh days!

Pretty cool, huh?

It amazes and saddens me to hear how many people have been deceived and gas-lighted to believe God's precious gifts to us are harsh restrictions or commandments seemingly designed to stifle our spirits or quench our joy. But it is just the opposite, my friends. And it is only a matter of opening our hearts to trust His heart, hear His wisdom, and walk in His ways. Like making every seventh day a "Sabbath Snow Day."

Chilling with you, Brother Mark
mark@quillpress.org