

"TAKE A BREATH ... GOOD QUESTION, BETTER QUESTION!"
AUGUST 25, 2019 – THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ISAIAH 58:9B-14; HEBREWS 12:18-29; LUKE 13:10-17
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

Why do you do what you do? Good question. Why does God do what God does? Better question! Why do we question what God does? Good question. Why do we not let God be God? Better question! Today's readings invite us to ask many questions. Why do we do what we do on the Sabbath? Why do we feel so guilty at times? Why do we wait to bring before God what cripples our lives? Why do we put our trust in the water and Word of Baptism? Why does God work so hard? Why is God so gracious? Why do we not use the Sabbath and every day to remember Who is never resting when it comes to our salvation? As we share the story today of Jesus healing on the Sabbath, let us take a deep breath in grace and not question our Savior, let us give thanks and trust on the Sabbath and every day, Jesus may not answer all of our questions as he showers us with grace upon grace!

1. Why do we, or don't we, honor the Sabbath Day and keep it holy?
Isaiah 58:12-14; Hebrews 12:28; Luke 13:13-14
 - A. Why are you here this morning?
 - i. Is it to follow a rule? Good question!
 - ii. Is it to worship? Better question!
 - B. Why do you worship?
 - i. Is it to be bound up? Good question!
 - ii. Is it to be set free? Better question!
2. Why do we feel so guilty at times? Why do we at times hurt so deeply inside?
Luke 13:15
 - A. Why the first tablet? Good question! The first tablet is clear about our relationship with our God. 'Have no other gods before me,' 'Do not take the name of your Lord your God in vain,' 'Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.'

- B. Why The Christ? Better question! Luther said, 'No one can keep even one commandment.' If we could, we would have no need for The Christ. We have The Savior, because we need The Savior!
3. Why do we wait to bring before the Lord our brokenness and all those things which cripple our lives and spirits? Isaiah 58:12; Luke 13:11,16
- A. Who here would like God to wait to heal you? Good question!
- B. Why do we wait so long? Better question!
4. Why do we put our trust and hope in the water and Word of Baptism? Isaiah 58:11; Hebrews 12:28; Luke 13:16
- A. Why Baptism? Good question! Baptism is not a rule but a gift of faith, grace and life for the living. There is nothing magical about Baptism. Mysterious? Yes! Baptism is life giving to all who believe!
- B. Why would we do anything but stay close and let our light shine? Better question!
5. Why do we do what we do? Good question. Why does God work so hard to shower us with healing and hope, compassion and comfort? Why does God bother with us? These indeed are better questions! Trust you need not know 'why' as you live and breathe in God's saving, life giving, grace!
Isaiah 58:11; Hebrews 12:28; Luke 13:12