

## **Video: There Is No Music in a Rest**

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • April 8, In the year of our Lord, 2020

### **Prelude:**

#### **I. On May 22, 1961, at 10:30 in the morning,**

A. an unknown person wrote what he or she called, “Prayer for the Day,”

There is no music in a rest, but there is the making of music in it. In our whole life melody the music is broken off here and there by “rests,” and there are even times when we think we have come to the end of the tune. God sends a time of forced leisure—sickness, disappointed plans, frustrated efforts—and makes a sudden pause in the choral hymn of our lives, and we lament that our voices must be silent and our part missing in the music which ever goes up to the ear of the Creator.

How does the musician read a rest? See him beat time with unvarying count and catch up the next note true and steady as if no breaking place had come between. Not without design does God write the music of our lives. But be it ours to learn the time and not be dismayed at the “rests.” They are not to be slurred over, nor to change the keynote. If we will look up, God Himself will beat the time for us. With the eye on Him we shall strike the next note full and clear.

#### **II. We see sickness, disappointed plans, frustrated efforts, and other problems**

A. as an interruption of our lives.

B. We think these things ruin our plans, but

1. truly, the Lord might be imposing on us

2. a time of rest in the music of our lives, because He knows

a) that we learn from those times of rest, and

b) that we think on the more sober issues of life.

(1) We need to see that we are not the conductor of our lives.

(2) We do not write the song of our lives.

### **Persuasion:**

#### **I. The Musical Rest**

A. In a song,

1. the writer has placed a rest.
  2. The writer will use different symbols to show the length of the rest.
- B. The writer may place that rest for an emphasis, or
1. to allow us to catch our breath, or sometimes
  2. we do not know why the writer placed a rest there,
    - a) we just need to rest.
    - b) Then sometimes we discover the reason.
- C. The power of the rest is like the power of the pause.
1. Listen to comedians and
    - a) after they tell a joke,
    - b) they pause.
      - (1) Everyone thinks on what the comedian said, and
      - (2) then they laugh.
  2. A public speaker does the same thing, but
    - a) not for a laugh,
    - b) rather to get you to think on what was just said.
- D. The point of the piece that I read earlier by that unknown person
1. is that often God forces a rest upon us.
  2. We should accept those times for discovering what He wants us to do.

## **II. God Forces a Rest**

- A. Yes, we need to be productive citizens.
1. We get the idea of work from God Himself, yet,
  2. He commanded the Israelites to rest, and
    - a) He meant total rest,
    - b) a whole day every week!
- B. David wrote the magnificent words of some of the Psalms
1. during times of forced rest from God,
  2. times of illness.

a) Yet, his illnesses led to high and holy words!

**3 The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of illness;  
You will sustain him on his sickbed.**

**– Psalm 41.3**

C. Doesn't God drive us to rest everyday!

1. He could have made us to function without rest.

2. I know that because even when we do rest,

a) our bodies continue to function.

b) Think about it: Your heart never rests.

D. Does He stop the music of our lives, forcing a rest upon us,

1. that we might learn something?

2. that we might remember He is the song leader?

3. that we might think on what just happened in our lives?

a) I don't know.

E. We see forced rests as inconveniences, even irritations, but

1. following the Lord's leading of the song of our lives,

2. we learn why these times become necessary.

### **III. The Beat Continues**

A. The music of life continues.

1. At some point in your life,

2. you will realize that someone else is writing the music, leading the song.

a) When you get in-tune with Him,

b) the music of your life will improve dramatically.

B. The song leader, conductor, continues to beat the time to the music, but

1. the leader is in charge.

2. If we follow the leader,

a) we know when to start singing again.

- b) So it is with life.
  - (1) He gives all the instructions that we need
  - (2) for singing the music of our lives.
- C. When the time of forced rest comes upon us,
  - 1. we think it will never end.
  - 2. That is because we looked away from the Leader of the music of our lives.
    - a) We try our own tune, but
    - b) we make it worse.

#### **IV. God Writes the Music of Our Lives**

- A. He is in charge.
  - 1. He writes and leads the music of our lives, but
    - a) sometimes we forget and we want our own tune.
    - b) That was Jonah's problem.
      - (1) How did that work out for him?
      - (2) It did not work out well at all.
  - 2. Let us remember that we confessed,
    - a) "Jesus is Lord," to be saved.
    - b) You were not using a secret code to be saved.
      - (1) When you confessed the Lordship of Jesus Christ,
      - (2) you denied yourself the lordship, and
        - (a) came to believe that He rules over all, and
        - (b) that you wanted Him to rule your life.
          - i) As the Lord, He writes the music of our lives and
          - ii) directing it, causing us to rest when He wants it.
- B. We have to learn the timing of the song in our lives.
  - 1. We learn the time by watching Him.
  - 2. Watching Him we do not have to guess.
  - 3. He knows what He is doing.

- C. Therefore, we cannot let the “rests” dismay us.
  - 1. A rest in music does not mean the music has stopped permanently,
  - 2. so a rest in life does not mean the music of life has ceased.
- D. We cannot change the music during the rest.
  - 1. Enjoy the rest.
  - 2. Gain from the break.
- E. Mark tells us that Jesus told His disciples to rest,

**31 And He said to them, “Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.**

**– Mark 6.31**

- F. Watch God beat the time for the music of your life.
  - 1. For in so doing, you will hit the next note
  - 2. as you should, full and clear, and
    - a) you will live just as He wants you to live.

### **Exhortation:**

#### **I. The Lord is our song:**

- 2 **“The Lord is my strength and song,  
And He has become my salvation;  
He is my God, and I will praise Him;  
My father’s God, and I will exalt Him.”**

**– Exodus 15.2**

#### **II. What is He doing to get your attention?**

- A. Use this time that we have to stay in our homes
- B. to learn what you can,
  - 1. to think,
  - 2. to discover something about you and God.