



21-DAY FAST Devotional #14- ROBBED

By Pastor Myron D. Atkinson

Luke 4:8 (NLT) Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

It's SUNDAY! Today is the day that we gather together collectively to worship God. It's a day unlike the others because it's the 1st day of the week and the day that we celebrate that Jesus has risen (John 20). **For over 2000 years, the church has been gathering together** for just this reason. Some people choose to sleep in. I heard one comedian share that he had named his bed "The Word" so when people called, he could share that he was in "The Word!" I've heard others say that they worship at St. Mattress. Others tell me they can worship God in nature (golf, fishing, hiking, etc.), or by watching a pastor on TV. Yes, we are called to Worship God with all our hearts, soul, mind, and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5), and we can do that anywhere at any time.... **BUT, there is something about that collective worship with others that is transformative.** When we miss worship I believe three people get robbed:

1. **We rob ourselves** - of the encouragement we receive from others, the edification we receive from corporate Worship, the blessings we receive from serving others, and the celebration of the Sacraments.
2. **We rob others** - of the encouragement that they receive from us, and the blessings they receive from serving us.
3. **We rob God** - often times, of the tithe and focused worship He deserves.

I know for myself, I hate missing worship, and it's incredibly awesome when the body of Christ is engaged with all of their heart, soul, mind, and strength. I think it's invigorating and electrifying! **Psalms 95:6 (NLT) says, "Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker!" Let's WORSHIP!**

Question for today: What blessings have you missed out on?

Verses to look up: 1 Corinthians 16:2, Acts 20:7, I Peter 4:10, Romans 12:4-7, Malachi 3:8-12

Prayer for this week: Dear Jesus, Thank you for a new day! A day that I can worship you, love you, and serve you! Thank you for helping me to win dependence upon you. Help me every day to take time to realize that it ALL begins and ends with you.

Thank you for helping me to "win within" by being a person of integrity. Help me to regularly examine myself and seek Your forgiveness for sin. Help me to realize that life is short and eternity is Forever so that I will walk in obedience to you, letting go of all else that consumes me except for You.

Thank you for helping me to "win with others" by seeing them the way that You see them. Help me to love people and use things rather than use people and love things. Use me this day to influence someone for you.

Help me to continue to pray and believe for breakthroughs even when I don't see them. Thank you for the breakthroughs that have happened in my life and my church. May I be the person You want me to be and may our church be the church You want us to be. Let change begin in my heart and flow over to my home, my church, and my community! Amen