

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ The Stooped Over Woman

Last time...Jesus taught the people to not think like Job's friends and the absolute need of repentance to avoid judgment

- Galilaeans murdered by Pilate
- 18 people who died when the Tower of Siloam fell
- The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

This time...Jesus heals someone on the Sabbath again and rebukes His adversaries who heartlessly object

We will be in Luke 13 again

v10-13 teaching...on the Sabbath...spirit of infirmity...she was made straight:

This is the last time recorded in Scripture that Jesus taught in a synagogue
And...He again heals someone on the Sabbath

Healing someone on the Sabbath...how all the trouble/hostility started

1. John 5:1-18...in Jerusalem
2. Luke 6:1-11...in Galilee
3. John 7:2, 19-23 (John 5) and John 9:1-16...in Jerusalem again

Now, Jesus heals on the Sabbath in the last synagogue He will teach in, here in Perea in this last phase of His ministry before returning to Jerusalem to go to the Cross

In this synagogue was a woman who for 18 years had been afflicted with a demon that made her completely stooped over, unable to stand up straight and "unbend" herself

Let's stop and consider this woman:

- Bent over crippled for over 18 years, perhaps 936 Sabbaths
- To see anyone's face, she has to look up and sideways
- Could not feel the warmth of the sun on her face
- Her face is close to the dusty, filthy streets;
as she shuffles along she kicks up even more dust
 - How do you drink water bent over like that?
 - Try walking around bent over for an hour let alone 18 years!
- Probably avoided by "normal" people
- Perhaps even condemned by people for her "sin" (Job's friends)

- Even after 936 Sabbaths of unanswered prayers, she still faithfully “comes to church”

How ashamed are children of God for the flimsy excuses offered up as to why they do not go to church to worship the Lord Who suffered and died on a Cross to save us from the judgment of God!

What is the priority of coming to church to worship in light of Heb 10:25?

- She is not bitter or angry with God for her circumstances, she has a heart of worship for her God!
- The depth of her faith and her love for the Lord

Jesus saw her and...had compassion on her

It is not recorded that the woman asked to be healed, she may not have even seen Jesus.

He summoned her...she obeyed, by faith

Jesus

- declared, to her and to all present in the synagogue, that she was free from this bondage/affliction (NOT a sin!)
- laid His hands on her
- immediately healed her...”unbent” her, straightened her

And the woman feels the warmth of the Sun of Righteousness on her face!

The woman, upright for the first time in 18 years, glorified God, a proper response of the upright to the touch of God

A wonder-full example of Matt 5:17

Lev 26:12-13 And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be My people. I *am* the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright

Ps 11:7 the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; His countenance doth behold the upright

Ps 112:4 Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: *He is* gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous

Ps 18:25 With the merciful Thou wilt shew Thyself merciful; with an upright man Thou wilt shew Thyself upright

Jesus and the stooped over woman...

He was walking among His people
He loves the righteous (faith, Gen 15:6, Rom 3:22)
He saw an upright woman stooped over in a demonic affliction
He was full of compassion and merciful
He was upright with the upright (spiritual)
He healed her, made her go upright (physical)

How is this wonder-full encounter received?

v14 ruler...indignation...unto the people:

Jesus healing someone on the Sabbath has not played well to the Pharisees
in Jerusalem or Galilee...nor does it in Perea.

The ruler of the synagogue, the local religious leader, takes GREAT exception to what Jesus did!

“Lawbreaker!”

Ex 31:14-15 Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it *is* holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth *any* work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be done; but in the seventh *is* the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth *any* work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death

But the indignant coward “answers” to the people, NOT to Jesus directly
“There are 6 days you can come here to be healed,
but NOT on the Sabbath!”

This self-righteous man’s hard heart is filled with hostility for the Light of the world Who is gracious, full of compassion, and righteous

This minister has no compassion for his people – he has no business being a minister

He has a legal vs a loving relationship with God,
therefore with the people of God as well

What constituted “work” on the Sabbath was defined by the rabbis
Man’s interpretation of Scripture, not God’s meaning
Jesus, while keeping it undefiled and holy, taught God’s meaning for the Sabbath

- Sabbath is made for man (a blessing, for his benefit),
not man for the Sabbath (religious bondage)
- One greater than the Sabbath is come...the Lord of the Sabbath
- The traditions of man making the Word of God of none effect

And the Lord certainly has something to say about all that

v15-16 answered him...hypocrite:

The Lord of the Sabbath answered the ruler
(not the people as did the cowardly lion of a leader)
In a direct confrontation with this heartless ruler before the entire congregation,
Jesus goes right for the heart

The heart of the ruler of the synagogue

Jesus calls him a hypocrite, an actor
“Don’t all of you, including you hypocrite, free your animals and
lead them to watering/life on the Sabbath?
How much more should I this woman, a precious descendent of
Abraham, from the cruel bonds of the devil after
18 years...of NOT being healed by you on any of the
‘acceptable’ 5,616 days of these 18 years?!”

The heart of the no-longer stooped over woman

Gal 3:29 if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs
according to the promise

The heart of the matter

The Sabbath imposes no prohibition on mercy like the self-righteous
legalists did...mercy does not defile the Sabbath

Prov 11:6 The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but
transgressors shall be taken in *their own* naughtiness

Gal 3:24 the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that
we might be justified by faith

Heb 4:3 we which have believed do enter into rest
(Jesus is our Sabbath/rest)

Things are not always as they seem – who is upright and who is not?

Prov 21:29 A wicked man hardeneth his face: but *as for* the upright, he directeth his way

Ps 18:25-27 With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright; With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward. For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

v17 adversaries were ashamed...all the people rejoiced:

On that day in that synagogue,

- Jesus' many adversaries/enemies were ashamed, disgraced and shut down
- the people rejoiced, giving glory to God for what Jesus did (and for the heart with which He did them... love, compassion, mercy)

For that woman on that day and for all who will believe, there is freedom in Jesus from the bondage of the world, the devil, and the religions of man

And so it will be at the end of the age...and forever

- enemies ashamed
- friends rejoicing

With this backdrop of hostile and heartless and oppressive religion, Jesus speaks 2 parables about the kingdom of God on earth

v18-21 grain of mustard seed...leaven:

Here by the Jordan River, Jesus repeats 2 of the Kingdom Parables He taught in the Galilee

- the Mustard Seed (Matt 13:31-32)
- Leaven (Matt 13:33)

which come on the heels of the Kingdom Parable of the Tares (Matt 13:24-30)

Mustard plant is a humble bush

It is never a tree, much less a great tree

That this mustard plant is great tree able to house birds speaks of abnormal growth

Birds are demons that snatch the Seed of the Word sown

(Kingdom Parable of the Sower, Matt 13:3-9, 18-23)

Leaven is sin, corruption, a rotting influence

For the Feast of Passover/Unleavened Bread (rapidly approaching),
absolutely no leaven was to be in their houses
Ex 34:18, 25

Luke 12:1 Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy

1 Cor 5:7-8 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

With these 2 parables, Jesus is teaching that The Kingdom of God on earth (Church)

- will be corrupted by evil in its midst
- will attract, allow, and tolerate evil, and thus know abnormal growth

What % of people in all churches are born-again of the Spirit of God and new creatures in Christ?

What % of Christianity is organization vs organism?

There is a GREAT deal of these evils in the Church

- legalism
- self-righteousness
- judgmentalism
- unbelief
- false doctrine
- false teachers
- goddess worship
- idolatry
- covetousness
- power-seeking (to lord over)
- influence-peddling (for self gain)
- compromise with sin
- not enough compassion, grace, and mercy

The Church does not save anyone from eternal death (the judgment of God), only Jesus Christ does!

Don't look to the Church

(filled with imperfect people aka hypocrites and much sin),
look to Jesus Christ!!!

Heb 2:14-18 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood,
He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death
He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the
devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their
lifetime subject to bondage. For verily He took not on *him the*
nature of angels; but He took on *him* the seed of Abraham.
Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto *His*
brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in
things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the
people. For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is
able to succour them that are tempted

John 8:36

Invitation: Come up for prayer, we will lay hands on you