

Luke

See Jesus

Jesus Confronts the Lies of This World

Luke 13:10-17

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / May 1, 2022

This brief encounter between Jesus and a crippled woman brings into sharp focus three of the biggest obstacles that keep us from coming to Christ.

I. He Dismantles the Deception of Achieving God's Favor on Your Own

Luke 13:10 “Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.”

He was teaching that the Kingdom of God has come, so that salvation is found in God's Son—not in the law, your own efforts, or anything that you might try to do for God.

This good news always ignited a firestorm of hostility from those who were entrenched in their own self-righteousness.

The human heart actually hates this message of grace because it's based on our condition of being helpless and hopeless sinners who can do nothing to save ourselves.

The default condition of our flesh is to earn it and to think that we can merit God's favor because we're actually in love with man-made systems and moralism far more than a Savior.

II. He Demonstrates His Power to Free Us from Bondage to Satan

Luke 13:11-12 “And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. ¹²When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, ‘Woman, you are freed from your disability.’”

Jesus uses this woman to put on display His power over Satan and the spiritual forces of darkness that sometimes cripple us physically but always cripple us spiritually and keep us in spiritual bondage until we look to Him.

Notice that Jesus is the One that saw her. He stopped in the middle of His teaching and called her to come out of the back of the synagogue. Not only was she a woman, but she would have been considered an outcast because of her condition.

Jesus didn't say “you are healed” or “you are clean.” He said “you are *freed*” because He's using her as an example of His power to free us from the bondage to Satan that keeps us hunched over and miserable in our sin.

III. He Exposes the Brutal Hypocrisy of Legalism

The ruler of the synagogue was not just confused or rattled. He was indignant - which means to be angry and offended at something you think is unjust and should not have happened.

Luke 13:14 “But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, ‘There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day.’”

He’s more concerned with preserving, promoting and defending his complicated system than rejoicing in a Savior who can set us free. That’s what legalism and hypocrisy look like.

Legalism and hypocrisy have no place for mercy and compassion and are actually brutal to people created in the image of God.

This passage brings into focus the contrast and fierce conflict between Jesus and the forces of darkness as well as the legalism that our own human hearts cling to instead of bowing to Jesus as our Savior.

Luke 13:17 “As He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame...”

Jesus put to shame that synagogue leader in front of the crowd, but a few months later He put to shame our greatest enemy – Satan – as He triumphed over him publicly on the cross in payment for our sins.

What Satan thought was his greatest moment as he saw Christ hanging on the cross, became his greatest moment of humiliation when Christ robbed him of the power to condemn us or destroy us along with himself in hell.

Colossians 2:12-15 “Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.”