

Luke 13:10-21

1. Release v11-13

And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. 11 And there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent double, and could not straighten up at all.

1. Notice that this was not a sickness caused by an accident, or a birth defect.
2. Dr. Luke said it was a spiritual realm sickness: caused by a spirit. And not only Luke, but Jesus!
3. In verse 16 we read, *“And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years.”*
4. It causes you to wonder, how much of our physical, mental, and emotional sickness is physical and how much is spiritual? Jesus said, at least some of it, some of the time, can be spiritual.
5. And notice where this woman, bound by Satan, is found: in the Synagogue!
 - a. A spirit can bend this woman over double for 18 years...Satan can bind this woman for 18 years.
 - b. But he can't keep her from the synagogue...and he can't keep her from Jesus.
6. Let me tell you right now, Satan can do a lot of things, but He cannot keep you from running to Jesus this morning!
 - a. He can convince you that you are not worthy, that you need to take care of some things, that you need to clean your life up, but he can't keep you from the grace and mercy and forgiveness of Jesus Christ if you will just come to Him
 - b. He can convince you that Jesus won't receive you, that Jesus could never forgive you, and that Jesus has given up on you, but he can't keep Jesus from saying come to me ALL you who labor and are heavy laden, and he cannot stop Jesus from giving you rest.
 - c. Some of you need to stop letting him bind you from Jesus just because he has you bound in other ways!

12 When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your sickness.”

1. Think about what happens here.
 - a. Jesus doesn't ask her about her disease.
 - b. She does not ask Him to heal her disease
2. He just saw her and called her over and said, be free from your sickness!

3. Listen, you who feel bound, trapped, abandoned, and hopeless...
 - a. Stop thinking you have to take care of some things before Jesus can save you.
 - b. This woman was bent double, and the Bible says she could not straighten up at all.
 - c. She could not straighten up at all...and neither can you. You can't straighten up your life! But Jesus can and Jesus will and Jesus wants to!
4. He may be looking at you this morning saying come over here...in the words of Fanny Crosby.
 - a. Jesus is tenderly calling thee home, calling today, calling today
Why from the sunshine of love wilt thou roam, farther and farther away
Calling today, calling today, Jesus is calling, is tenderly calling today.
 - b. Jesus is calling the weary to rest, Calling today, calling today
Bring him thy burden and thou shalt be blessed, he will not turn thee away.
Calling today, calling today, Jesus is calling, is tenderly calling today.
 - c. Jesus is waiting; o come to Him now, waiting today, waiting today
Come with thy sins; at His feet lowly bow; come and no longer delay
Calling today, calling today, Jesus is calling, is tenderly calling today.
 - d. Jesus is pleading; o list to His voice, Hear Him today, hear Him today
They who believe on His name shall rejoice; quickly arise and away.
Calling today, calling today, Jesus is calling, is tenderly calling today.

13 And He laid His hands on her; and immediately she was made erect again and began glorifying God.

1. He can do the same for you today. He can touch you and heal you.
2. GOSPEL and CALL FOR A RESPONSE.

2. Rebuke v14

14 But the synagogue official, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, began saying to the crowd in response, "There are six days in which work should be done; so come during them and get healed, and not on the Sabbath day."

1. He missed the fact that the woman went from bound by Satan to glorifying God on the Sabbath day.
2. All he saw, was work...the letter of the law being violated.
3. Exodus 20:9-10 *Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you.*
4. You can quote scripture perfectly and yet perfectly miss the point.

3. Response v15-16

15 But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites, does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the stall and lead him away to water him? 16 And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?”

Matthew 12:11-12 And He said to them, “What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”

1. You guys are willing to do physical work on the Sabbath when it benefits you
2. And yet criticize me when I do spiritual work on the Sabbath day that benefits others?
3. What better day to do spiritual work than the Sabbath? What better day to push Satan out just a little bit more?
4. The religious leaders were too blind to understand the Scripture, but the normal Joes weren't.

4. Rejoicing v17

17 As He said this, all His opponents were being humiliated; and the entire crowd was rejoicing over all the glorious things being done by Him.

1. Jesus has just absolutely shamed the religious leaders.
 - a. He had humiliated them with His clear understanding of the spirit of the law
 - b. And the entire crowd celebrated what He did for their fellow Israelite.
2. Psalm 132:18 *“His enemies I will clothe with shame, But upon himself his crown shall shine.”*
3. But, he did not initiate his just to do a good deed, or to humiliate the synagogue officials, or to invigorate the Jewish laypeople.
4. He wanted to reveal something extremely important to them all: The Kingdom of God had come!

5. Revealing v18-21

18 So He was saying, “What is the kingdom of God like, and to what shall I compare it? 19 It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and threw into his own garden; and it grew and became a tree, and THE BIRDS OF THE AIR NESTED IN ITS BRANCHES.” 20 And again He said, “To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? 21 It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened.”

Jesus takes this opportunity to reveal to the people the fact that the Kingdom they had long been awaiting had finally come!

1. The long awaited Kingdom had come, but not in the way they expected.
2. The demonic powers had been shaken and defeated, and the religious leaders were oblivious!

- a. Already, in Luke 10, Jesus had seen Satan and his demons falling as before his men as they moved into new areas.
 - b. Jesus knew that the serpent would be treaded down in city after city, people group after people group and his sting will be removed as the gospel goes forth!
 - c. John 12:31 *Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.*
 - d. This incident in the life of this woman was just another testimony to this fact: The Kingdom had come.
3. They did not recognize that in the person of Jesus the kingdom was now.

What is seen is not what always is so Jesus tries to clarify with two parables that show how the Kingdom of God advances on earth. It is a dual advance.

A. External Advance

18 So He was saying, "What is the kingdom of God like, and to what shall I compare it? 19 It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and threw into his own garden; and it grew and became a tree, and THE BIRDS OF THE AIR NESTED IN ITS BRANCHES."

- 1. The Kingdom visibly advances for all to see as evangelism, discipling, and missions happens from her not the ends of the earth.
- 2. The parable of the mustard seed was concerned with the kingdom's extension through the world
 - a. The birds roosting in the branches are often a symbol of the nations
 - b. Ezek 17:23 *On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest.*
 - c. People from all nations will find themselves in the Kingdom.
- 3. And the word nested here refers to a permanent dwelling. Literally, "They set up their home, they put their nests there."
- 4. "I will build," what, "my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."

B. Internal Advance

20 And again He said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? 21 It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened."

- 1. The parable of the mustard seed was concerned with the kingdom's extension through the world; the flour and the leaven with its transforming power.
- 2. It views the kingdom of God, not in its external growth, but in its internal influence.
- 3. A small quantity of leaven makes itself felt throughout a much larger mass...so with the kingdom.

4. Christ's kingdom permeates, not by politics, not by laws, not by lobbying, and not by forcing things.
5. Hidden in the dough of society it permeates and permeates and bubbles and bubbles under the power of the Spirit of God transforming lives one at a time.
6. It comes from inside, quietly, under the surface.
7. Let's stop trying so hard to change the world through politics and government and huge platforms and start doing what Jesus led us here to do—invest in people and in our own spiritual growth trusting in His strategy and power.

Conclusion: