

April 6, 2014

“The Darkness of a Dark, Dark, Dark World, INVADED by LIGHT” Or

“Straightening Up Bent-Out-of-Shape Women and Dealing with Legalistic Men!”

Luke 13:10-17

The chapter and verse divisions in the Bible are not inspired. They are not part of what we would find in the original Hebrew and Greek! Never-the-less, I for one am thankful God in His providence has allowed them and some of them, including this one SEEM especially, appropriately numbered ... 13 traditionally is seen as an unlucky number and this chapter pictures for us a dark and you might say, “unlucky” place. Yet, 13 is also Biblically the combination of 7 the number of God and 6 the number of man. Here we have the God-man Jesus Christ, coming into a world ruined by man’s sin; and straightening it out, brightening its darkness!

I. A pitiful sight, a pitiful situation –

1. The pitiful sight –

¹⁰ **Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.**

¹¹ **And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up.**

(Luke 13:10-11 NKJ)

- A. Note that according to verse :10 Jesus was teaching yet Luke tells us nothing about it ...*
- B. Rather he tells us to “behold” this pitiful sight! “Behold” as I have told you before is the EXTRA, EXTRA read all about it word in Scripture ... it calls MEDITATION and DEEPER thinking about something ---*

John the Baptist calls us to –

... “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29 NKJ)

Pilate calls us to “Behold” Jesus both as “without fault” and as wearing a crown of thorns for our sin –

⁴ **Pilate then went out again, and said to them, “Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him.”**

⁵ **Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, “Behold the Man!” (John 19:4-5 NKJ)**

This (here in Luke 13) is a dreadful pitiful sight because it shows us the impact of sin, and also the defiling work of Satan on a woman created in God’s image!

2. A pitiful situation –

What makes this a pitiful situation is after Jesus heals and helps this woman, defeating Satan, at least in her life, He is still dealing with CRITICS –

¹³ **And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. ¹⁴ But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, “There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day.” (Luke 13:13-14 NKJ)**

- A. His critic here was not ordinary but the ruler of the synagogue*
- B. His critic should have been on His side and leading the congregation in PRAISE!*
- C. Yet the best it seems we can say about him and others with him was that they were “shamed” by Jesus’ rebuke –*

¹⁵ **The Lord then answered him and said, “Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? ¹⁶ “So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound-- think of it-- for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?” ¹⁷ And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him. (Luke 13:15-17 NKJ)**

- D. At least the multitude “rejoiced”*
- E. This would not be the case with my previously mentioned but later happening Pilate’s “Beholds”*

^{NKJ} **John 19:1 So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him.**

² **And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. ³ Then they said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck Him with their hands. ⁴ Pilate then went out again, and said to them, “Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him.”**

⁵ Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!"

⁶ Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him." (John 19:1-6 NKJ)

II. We live in a Dark World, Gone MAD –

This entire chapter shows us this:

1. Pilate murdered Jews offering sacrifices - :1
2. Jesus speaks about the Tower of Siloam falling on and killing eighteen people - :4
3. He tells the entire group of them the NEED to REPENT - :5
4. There is Jesus' parable of the fig tree, representing unfruitful Jerusalem and unfruitful professors of faith everywhere -:6-9
5. Of course this poor woman and the critic (s) of Jesus' healing her on the Sabbath - :10-17
6. There is the Kingdom of God, seemingly small in a dark world ruled by Satan, like a mustard seed - :18-21
7. There is a narrow door, and few saved, there is Jesus' prediction of "weeping and gnashing of teeth" - :22-30
8. There is Herod's desire to kill Jesus - :31-33
9. Jesus' weeping over Jerusalem ... the City of God, which kills God's prophets ...

Well, studying for this I saw the second part of the movie series based on the Book, the Hobbit –

Giant Evil Orcs, chasing much smaller dwarfs, Giant-spider infested evil forests, Good guy elves that are not that good! Dwarfs, the real good guys, who still struggle with greediness for gold; a dragon, holding and controlling most of the gold just as Satan holds most of that in this world.

In the movie one of the heroes, the wizard Gandolf is demanding evil to show itself. When he meets with some Orcs, he demands, "where is your leader?" The answer he is EVERYWHERE, we are legion! Later he seems to be battling the darkness with light ... the light flashes, but darkness continually surrounds it!

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12 NKJ)

III. We are those called to follow Jesus through this Dark World, we are called to a straitening ministry –

1. He is the LIGHT, we are called to be lights –

Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a **crooked** and perverse generation, **among whom you shine as lights in the world**, (Philippians 2:14-15 NKJ)

Our world has been made crooked by sin! Sin in all its varieties is CROOKED!

2. We are lights when we truly follow Jesus humbly into darkness, with a Christ-like LIGHT –

Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. ³ Let nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:1-11 NKJ)

3. Being LIGHTs means we are called to be a radically different kind of people, we must not hide our Light, Jesus Christ –

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16 NKJ)

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