

# Further up, Further in

## Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

### “RESPONDING TO THE FREEDOM CHRIST BRINGS”

For individual study or group discussion

DATE: September 24, 2023

SPEAKER: Frankl/Brian

SERIES: Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 13:10-17

Today's study in Luke 13:10-17 recounts another story of Jesus "teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath" (v. 10). Also present that day at the synagogue is a woman suffering from a debilitating deformity that has plagued her for 18 years. When she encounters Jesus, she is unexpectedly rescued from her bondage and renewed. **Responding to the freedom Christ brings**, many are amazed and rejoice, glorifying God for his miraculous healing. But the ruler of the synagogue resented Jesus' restorative work.

#### An instantaneous healing revealing the King's power (vv. 10-13)

Despite being afflicted for 18 years, this woman shows up to worship in the synagogue, *"a striking example of diligence in the use of the means of grace"* according to theologian J.C. Ryle. *"In spite of suffering and infirmity—she found her way to the place where the people of God met together. And truly she was blessed in her deed! She found a rich reward for all her pains. She came sorrowing—and went home rejoicing!"*<sup>1</sup>

- The woman did not allow the disabling spirit to be an excuse to stop her from worship. How does her example cause you to rethink the importance of being committed to corporate worship? (cf. Hebrews 4:16, 10:24-25)
- Read Psalm 103:1-5. Discuss some of the things God has done for you and your family. Take the time to share them with your small group and spend time giving thanks to him for all that he has done.

#### An indignant response revealing a hardened heart (vs. 14)

In Luke's gospel, he records two instances of Christ healing on the Sabbath. In Luke 6:6-11, Jesus heals the man with the withered hand. In both accounts, the Pharisees were angry and indignant, revealing their hardened and hateful hearts. The Sabbath healing in Luke 6 shows the full extent of their hypocrisy as these self-appointed guardians of God's law left immediately afterwards to discuss with one another "how to destroy him" (cf. Mark 3:1-6).

- Read Mark 2:23-28. What is the purpose of the Sabbath? How did Jesus' healing of the disfigured woman and the man with the withered hand fulfill the real purpose of the Sabbath?
- According to what you have learned from the sermon series in the Gospel of Luke, how does Jesus go about building his Kingdom? (Luke 4:18-19; 5:10-11; 27-32; and 6:20-26. See also I Cor. 1:27-29)

#### An irrefutable indictment revealing blatant hypocrisy (vv. 15-17)

Jesus rightly points out the blatant hypocrisy of the Pharisees in how they interpreted the Mosaic law. If they allowed for the needs of animals to be attended to on the Sabbath, how much more should the needs of people be met when they are in distress (v. 16)? As author Jerry Bridges concludes, *"The most proximate cause of the Pharisees' antagonism toward Jesus, however, lay in His ignoring of their hundreds of elaborate but petty rules that they had devised for interpreting the law of God. Not only did they devise these hundreds of man-made rules, but they had also elevated them to the level of Scripture, so that to break one of their rules was to violate the law of God itself. And yet these rules not only obscured the true intent of God's law, but also, in some cases, actually violated it (see Mark 7:9-13)."*<sup>2</sup> Through the ministry of Jesus Christ, both in his restorative and redemptive work, the true intent of the Sabbath is revealed—a gracious gift of refreshment, rest, and renewal in which his people can rejoice.

- Meditate on Psalm 90 this week as you rejoice in God's steadfast love.

## Family Dinner Table

### Freedom From Infirmity

by W. Joseph Mann

Adjunct professor of parish work at Duke Divinity School, W. Joseph Mann, reflects on Luke 13:10-17 as it applies to the church today: *"In his woodcut, 'Pilgrim's Progress,' the artist Robert Hodgell depicts a man bent over, not unlike the woman in today's scripture from Luke. Strapped to the man's back are large rocks, and written on them is the question, 'What shall I do to be saved?' He tries to walk forward, but his burden is too great. Behind him are laughing faces, deriding him and adding to his woe. This 'pilgrim' makes little progress because he has burdened himself with the weight of his own salvation. This ill-health is deeply spiritual, marked by our human desire to save ourselves, rather than to accept the freedom that Jesus offers us...All of us stand before God as broken sinners, unable to straighten up. In the church, we confess our human condition and create solidarity with all like us who are broken. And we celebrate that the eyes of Christ are upon us. In the fellowship of the church, we are called and touched and embraced. In this story, the woman is healed; she is made straight. We know that when we see, touch, and announce freedom from the burdens that weigh us down, not all of us are cured. But as in this Gospel story, we are all set free and given wholeness, purpose, and promise through Jesus Christ."*<sup>3</sup>

- Healed from the burden of sin and called to freedom in Christ, discuss how we should live in light of our freedom. (See Galatians 5:13-26 and 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.)
- Read Jeremiah 30:16-24. How is today's story of Jesus healing the disfigured woman a foretaste of what God has in store for his church?

### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Prison Prevention Ministries (PPM), supported partner ministry

### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Debbie and Neal, supported missionary partners

<sup>1</sup>Ryle, J. C. (n.d.). *A Crippled Woman Healed*. Luke chapter 13. <https://gracegems.org/Ryle/13.htm>

<sup>2</sup>Bridges, J. (n.d.). *Jesus Challenges the Pharisees: Reformed Bible Studies & Devotionals at Ligonier.org*. Reformed Bible Studies & Devotionals at Ligonier.org. Ligonier Ministries. <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/jesus-challenges-pharisees>

<sup>3</sup>Mann, W. J. (2013, August 14). *Freedom From Infirmity: A Lectionary Reflection on Luke 13:10-17*. The Connection. <https://sites.duke.edu/theconnection/2013/08/14/freedom-from-infirmity-a-lectionary-reflection-on-luke-1310-17/#:~:text=In%20this%20story%20the%20woman,and%20promise%20through%20Jesus%20Christ>