

**Luke 13:10-21 The healing of the crippled woman**

WORD  
of the  
GOD



On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues,

He went to “church” on the Sabbath



On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues,

This is the last recorded instance of Jesus teaching in a  
synagogue



and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all.

She was there. (a regular?)  
She came to “church” in spite ..  
She came to learn and to  
worship – not expecting to be  
healed? *Seek first .....*

An evil spirit kept her crippled  
for 18 yrs.

**How did it happen?**

*Not known but no suggestion of  
gross sinful behaviour*



When Jesus saw her,



**Odd one out ?**

he called her forward



In the centre of everybody's attention

And just you and him !!

and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity."

## **“WOMAN”**

It ain't what you say it's .....

It's a tender address (not as our present understanding)



and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity."  
Then he put his hands on her,

**Spoken Word**

"you are"

and

**Touch**

of comfort  
and power

No  
contamination!





and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

**It's a miracle!**



Restored to being upright – symbolic human stance  
and Heart response

the synagogue leader was indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath,

## Why was he angry?

Upsetting the routine

Challenging  
his powerlessness

Breaking the rules??



Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath,  
the synagogue leader said to the people,



A sideways critic

But not happy at people's reaction

"There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath."

The synagogue was in use mid-week

He trivialises Jesus' act of mercy

He counts it as work !

A doctor's day off !!!



**Did Jesus break the commandment?**

No.

Therefore it's a man-made addition

There are six days on which (people) should work;



He is controlled by “should” :  
a deadly form of rule keeping

The Lord answered him, "You hypocritess!"

There's more of them there!

Say one thing and do something else



Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water?

They break their rules for their own property but show no care about a human being.

Things before people??



Then should not this woman

Another kind of “should” motivates Jesus





Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"

## **A daughter of Abraham**

*She is not your donkey  
she is your SISTER*

*And a believer*



Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"

**whom Satan  
has kept bound**

*The evil spirit is not Satan,  
but is under his command*



Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"

**for eighteen long years**

*The word 'long' is not in the original Greek text, but can you feel the compassion??*

**be set free  
on the Sabbath day**



Better the day – better the deed! Evidence of who Jesus is and of Satan's power being broken

When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated,



They were shown up for what they were !  
Speechless!

**Do you think they had any change of heart ??**  
Just more angry and full of hatred

but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.



**The right reaction from the ordinary people.**

Glad when true godliness was manifested

Glad when others get blessed

Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to?"



## **What is God's kingdom? Confused ideas?**

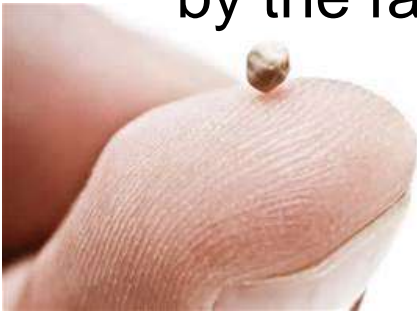
Jesus gives 2 parables to teach the people

**The growth of God's kingdom occurs little by little.**

**We see the progressive defeat of Satan's kingdom by Jesus' mercy, grace and power rather than by force of arms etc.**

Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches."

One of the smallest seeds used  
by the farmers



Can grow up to a  
'bush' 8 feet tall

Meaning –

**Small Beginning -> Big Finish**

(birds often a symbol of gentile nations  
also coming into the blessings)



Again he asked, "What shall I compare the kingdom of God to?  
It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty  
pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."



Meaning-

**Quietly Inside**



**Working Through**

Its silent spread and powerful  
effect





# What can we learn from this story?

There's a mystery in suffering – but Jesus can help

Satan's kingdom is defeated

God often starts big things in small ways

God works on the inside to change the outside

The good news of Jesus  
straightens broken people