

As our Lord came closer and closer to the cross, now only a few months away, we find him spending more and more time training his disciples and warning the Pharisees and the Jewish people that if they continued to reject him as their long-promised Messiah, then they would spiritually perish.

Now, after this extended time with the large crowd, our Lord moved away from them with his disciples and went into a local synagogue because it was the Sabbath.

Keep in mind the theme of Luke: "¹⁰ For the Son of Man^[a] came to seek and save those who are lost. ”." (Luke 19:10NLT)

Today we will examine Jesus' last appearance in a synagogue as recorded by Luke, why? the growing hostility against him was increasing to the point, it was too dangerous. in fact in verse 31 the Pharisees try to dissuade him from going south to Jerusalem...he was about half way between Galilee and Judea in the province of through Perea which was under the rulership of Herod.

NLT Luke 13:31 At that time some Pharisees said to him, “Get away from here if you want to live! Herod Antipas wants to kill you!” he tells them he is not worried about it, he will get to where he is going..

Back to the Synagogue...As soon as the sun set on Friday, the Jewish Sabbath would begin. The Jewish people from all over the Roman world would gather and worship in the local the synagogue, which was like our Christian churches, designed to meet the spiritual needs of the local community on a weekly basis.

The service would begin with the reading of the Shema':

" (NLT Deuteronomy 6:4), ⁴ "Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.^[a] ⁵ And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

Which would be followed by a prayer. Then someone would read a portion of scripture from One of five books known collectively as The Torah, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, or Deuteronomy.

Followed by a prayer of thanksgiving.

Then the head of the local synagogue would invite one of the men of the community or a special guest to take a scroll of the prophets, read it to the audience, and then give some spiritual commentary. This would be followed by praise, prayer and lunch.

Jesus was given this honor at a particular Synagogue. We pick up the story

NLT Luke 13:10 One Sabbath day as Jesus was teaching in a synagogue, ¹¹ he saw a woman who had been crippled by an evil spirit. She had been bent double for eighteen years and was unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Dear woman, you are healed of your sickness!" ¹³ Then he touched her, and instantly she could stand straight. How she praised God!

- **Remember Luke is a doctor...and describes this infirmity as from the demonic...it was not organic in nature**
- **This Jewish woman had opened herself up to demonic activity eighteen years earlier, and at that time the demon had caused her to be crippled and doubled over. Apparently she was physically normal once...**
- **What happened and what she was like before is anyone's guess...but a willful messing with the Demonic...has consequences...**

- **But now she was in the presence of the only one who could set her free from this physical and obviously the emotional, relational price she also paid through this encounter with the enemy.... Even though this was her condition...she found solace in the synagogue and the people of God.**
- **If fact she must have been well known in the synagogue, as no one took interest or were surprised at her being there...it seems it was her life style...**
- **but Jesus noticed her... for Only Jesus can set one free from Satanic attack**
- **and he healed her...She immediately praised God...**
- **this drew a rebuke from the synagogue ruler...**

NLT Luke 13:14 *But the leader in charge of the synagogue was indignant that Jesus had healed her on the Sabbath day. "There are six days of the week for working," he said to the crowd. "Come on those days to be healed, not on the Sabbath."*

- **The synagogue ruler did not address Jesus **but spoke to the crowd** to dissuade them from him....**
- **Apparently healing was considered work according to the religious traditions, not God's command but from their additions to his command.**
- **The leader of the synagogue reminded Jesus by speaking to the people that curing of the sick was only permitted on the Sabbath to save a life. This was not from God in his commands, but from the Jewish leaders and their continual debating about the precise meaning of the laws in the Torah. and the exact way that Jews ought to live their lives.**

- **The Sabbath should be kept special, set aside as a time for praising God, not to be used for anything else, according to their traditions**
- **He could wait and healed her on the other six day he asks? Which is a completely foolish statement... AS she has had this infirmity for 18 years...nobody healed her on any of the other six days in the previous 18 years....**

Jesus paid no attention to their traditions...for the law given by God said this is what is most important...which Jesus would reiterate...

NLT Matt22: 35 One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: 36 “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” 37 Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.”^[e] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[f] 40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” Found in Lev 19 and deut 6:4 the shema

- **He quotes God’s command which was two fold...love God...it is personal and love your neighbor it is personal... in the same way as you love yourselfdo what is best for them...**
- So he calls the ruler on this...hypocrisy...their traditions allowed help for an animal on the Sabbath...but not for a human being...

15 But the Lord replied, “You hypocrites! Each of you works on the Sabbath day! Don’t you untie your ox or your donkey from its stall on the Sabbath and lead it out for water?”

Jesus points out the hypocrisy ...of their Rabbinical traditions which make allowance to feed and water your animals on the Sabbath as long as they are tethered to you is God honoring...

- So his enemies saw nothing wrong in helping their animals get a drink on the sabbath... but helping or healing someone on the Sabbath is an affront to God?..so God cares more about animals than Humans?
- **His bondage was far worse than hers....as Her bondage was limited to her body**
- **But He was shackled mind and heart to traditions... ..He was upset Jesus had not followed their interpretation of the law. Traditions of men useful in some ways and dangerous in others**
- **His attitude supports what Jesus had already said about religious leaders keeping others from the Kingdom**

NLT Luke 11:46 “Yes,” said Jesus, “what sorrow also awaits you experts in religious law! For you crush people with unbearable religious demands, and you never lift a finger to ease the burden.

Then he speaks to this woman... **In fact if your going to heal someone...is there a better day than the Sabbath? The day of rest ?**

¹⁶ This dear woman, a daughter of Abraham, has been held in bondage by Satan for eighteen years. Isn't it right that she be released, even on the Sabbath? ”

- **And he speaks to her spiritual condition...a daughter of Abraham.... he speaks of her spiritual condition...her identity as he sees her ...and not her infirmity,**

Result:

¹⁷ This shamed his enemies, but all the people rejoiced at the wonderful things he did.

- **The crowd was with Jesus on this day...and his enemies slunk away...they will be back...**
- **The woman paced about upright, praising God and the crowd rejoiced...The kingdom of God was amongst them.**
- **Jesus had demonstrated the ongoing victory, victory of the Kingdom despite the opposition of men and Satan.**

¹⁸ Then Jesus said, “What is the Kingdom of God like? How can I illustrate it? ¹⁹ It is like a tiny mustard seed that a man planted in a garden; it grows and becomes a tree, and the birds make nests in its branches.”

- Verse 18...parallel passage Matt 13:7...seven kingdom parables contrasts between God’s kingdom and Satan’s kingdom..a couple here in Luke
- Greek word is sinapi...the mustard genre ...one black mustard...grows in the wild...engulfs the country side...can grow to six feet... the other *Nicotiana glauca*...the tobacco mustard tree...looks more like a tree 10-16 feet along the Jordan river...super tiny seed, the size of grain of sand.
- The point they though tiny they have massive capacity to grow...that is how the Kingdom grows...starts small invisible In someone but the capacity to grow is infinite.
- It started small now look at the size of the church
- the birds and there are many different varieties of birds...they will find a place of shade to land, rest and make nest in the tree...the Kingdom of God.

- Also you do not often understand what Jesus is doing now.... As it always starts small...and seems insignificant...
- **NLT Zechariah 4:10** Do not despise these **small beginnings**, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.....
- Interesting that the Lord rejoices in the planting of the seed...not just the finished product! How not like us...

NLT Matthew 17:20 "You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to **this mountain**, '**Move** from here to there,' and it would **move**. Nothing would be impossible."

Sometimes our will is the mountain, our lack of faith is the mountain...