

#10 - The Forgotten: The Twisted

08/23/2009 - Jim Johnson – Luke 13:10-17

The Lord remembers the forgotten. Luke 13:10-17 shows us another who and how.

A. There was a woman who was _____ .10-11

Jesus was teaching in a local Synagogue on the Sabbath Day. (10) In the congregation was a woman who had been exposed to the underworld some 18 years prior. An evil spirit moved into her life and took over, and the evidence of his presence was a crippling disability which left her doubled over, unable to straighten up at all. (11) There was something terrible in her past that had twisted and deformed her. She was one of the twisted.

There are many today who have been twisted, not so much physically, but in every other way. The twisted person is the one who has been deeply wounded and beaten up by life –so that they are now unable to mentally and emotionally straighten up. Like the Christian guy who seethes with anger and is controlled by bitterness. Someone or something in his past has twisted him. Maybe it was a spirit. Maybe it was a demanding ugly father. He was left hopelessly twisted. The doctor can't help, the counselor has failed. He doesn't really want help. He doesn't think he needs it.

B. Jesus _____ her out.

Jesus called her over to Himself. She then got up, and slowly shuffled up to Jesus, carefully placing her cane in front of her step by step. (12) How difficult and cumbersome that must have been. Why not speak to her from a distance? Why not spare the humiliation of shuffling across the room? This was a test for her. She could have decided that the humiliation was not worth it and stay in her seat, but she rose and approached Jesus instead. When she arrived he declared her healed.

He then placed His hands on her back, and as His healing power flowed, she began to involuntarily straighten up. If the evil spirit was still resident there – that spirit was ejected. And her spine which had been permanently twisted and distorted – was instantly made right. Her healing was immediate and complete. The twisted woman was twisted no more. (13)

C. The legalists tried to _____ her again. – 14

The Synagogue official was in charge of the service. He subscribed to the Pharisaical school of thinking – which took the Sabbath Day laws and stretched them to the point of absurdity. Which meant that you could not do a single solitary thing that even smacked of work. This official was outraged because Jesus had healed her on the Sabbath Day. (14) He told the congregation to forgo any healing on the Sabbath and come back on another day. In reality his words were an indirect accusation of the twisted woman. The implication being – Nobody else should do what this lawless excuse of a woman did. In so many words he was pointing his finger at that poor woman and saying, “Lady, this is all your fault! If you really loved God, you would have never been healed today. He was trying to cripple this woman again with a different spirit, equally as evil as the last. It was the spirit of legalism.

The legalist makes his own rules and expects everyone to obey them, including God. She was healed on the Sabbath – and that was against the rules. So he made her feel guilty about being healed by the Lord. That is what the legalist does. They try to steal away the joy that we get when we have been touched by the Lord – in salvation, or having experienced an answer to prayer. That Synagogue official used his words to take that once twisted woman and twist her up again. He wanted to see her possessed by that same legalistic spirit.

D. Jesus _____ out the legalists. – 15-17

Jesus pointed out that it was accepted practice by even the legalists to untie your donkey on the Sabbath, and lead him from his stall over to the watering hole so that he would be able to drink. It was a necessary work, and it was a benevolent work involving the life and health of that donkey. (15)

Therefore Jesus condemned the legalists for being duplicitous. They would extend help to a donkey, but would refuse it to a woman who was a daughter of Abraham and who had been tied up in Satan’s barn 18 long years. If it was right to loose a donkey, it was even more right to release the woman from her bondage – Sabbath Day or not. (16)

The story ends with Jesus having made mincemeat of the legalists. His opponents were humiliated and His fans were thrilled.

APPLICATION

There are many of us who are like the Synagogue official. We are the twisters. We are the ones who are making the lives of others miserable. We are the ones who are scarring our children and driving our friends away. We are the ones who are wounding our spouses.

And that’s probably because, once upon a time, we were the ones being twisted. We were twisted by an angry mother, or a perverted brother, or by a father who withheld his approval, or a traitorous friend.

Jesus, on the other hand, is calling your name. He wants to lay His healing hands upon you and straighten you up so that you can lift your head and really live life for the first time.

Christ _____ for twisted people.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Use this section in your personal or family devotions to better apply the truth.

1. What people and or experiences have twisted you to some degree or another?
2. What would it take to get you to surrender 100% to Christ and allow Him to work in you?
3. What are you waiting for?