

Luke 13:10-30 — A Crippled Woman Healed on the Sabbath

¹⁰ On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, ¹¹ 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. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” ¹³ Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

¹⁴ Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler said to the people, “There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.”

¹⁵ The Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water?

¹⁶ 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?”

¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

¹⁸ Then Jesus asked, “What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? ¹⁹ It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches.”

²⁰ Again he asked, “What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? ²¹ It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

The Narrow Door

²² Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. ²³ Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”

He said to them, ²⁴ “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. ²⁵ Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’

“But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’

²⁶ “Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’

²⁷ “But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’

²⁸ “There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. ²⁹ People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.”

Luke 13:10-30

1. Have you ever heard of (or had) special rules for Sunday?
2. What did Jesus do when he saw the crippled woman? What led to her healing? (13:12-13). How was her healing similar to healing the widow's son (7:12-15) but different from healing the bleeding woman (8:43-48)? What can we learn from the healings of Jesus?
3. Why was the synagogue ruler indignant? How did he view the Sabbath? What rule did he announce to the crowd?
4. What kind of restrictions do we foolishly put on God's work? Do we ever restrict good deeds because of man's (or self-imposed) rules or traditions?
5. Why did Jesus use a mustard seed as an illustration instead of a watermelon seed or soybean seed or acorn?
6. What makes yeast a good example of God's kingdom? What do these two parables (mustard seed and yeast) tell us about God's kingdom?
7. In what areas of life do you tend to procrastinate? How does it feel to miss a good opportunity?
8. According to Jesus, what is it worth every effort to accomplish? (13:24)
9. What does the narrow door represent? In what sense is the way to the kingdom of God narrow?
10. What happens once the door is shut? (13:25) Will the door be reopened? How successful will attempts be to enter after the door is shut? (13:27)
11. When will it be too late for people to come to the kingdom of God?
12. In what way will the first be last and the last be first?
13. How would the owner of the house respond to you right now, today? (Would you be on time? Are you following the narrow way? Would the door be open or closed to you?)

Luke 13:10-30 — Leader's Notes

Q6. In the Bible, Jesus used the analogy of a mustard seed to describe faith. Basically He was saying that it's not the size of one's faith that can move mountains or do the impossible but the object of your faith, i.e., whom or what you put your faith in. In this analogy Jesus was saying that small faith in the Almighty God can accomplish anything — even moving a mountain into the sea should this bring glory to God in the process.