

Responding to A God Who Reaches Out

Luke 13:10-35

Luke 13:10-12 NIV 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.**"

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Luke 13:34-35 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often **I have longed to** gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and **you were not willing.** 35 Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Luke 13:10-35 This section begins with a woman that Jesus saw...He was moved with compassion and He reached out to heal her - "**She praised and glorified God**". It ends with His statement in vs 34 "I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and **you were not willing.**"

It is a picture of a God that cares deeply about the human condition & our response to Him

1) He Reaches Out For Freedom

Jesus SAW her

- Jesus is aware of the human condition
 - Psalms 33:14 NIV From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind;
- Hagar recognized that the LORD saw her
 - Genesis 16:13 NIV She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me."

Jesus CALLED her forward

- He not only sees --- He gets involved - He is MOVED with compassion
- He saw the condition of Israel and moved to set them free from Egypt
 - Exodus 3:9-10 NIV And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. (10) So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."
- He saw our lost condition and moved to die on the cross
 - John 3:16 NIV For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus SAID unto her, "You Are Set Free"

- He not only gets involved - He has the power to make a difference

She responded in Praise to God

Luke 13:13 Then he put his hands on her, and immediately **she straightened up and praised God.**

The only fitting response is to praise, glorify and magnify Him

- Luk 5:24-25 KJV But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house. 25 And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, **glorifying God.**
- Luk 18:43 KJV And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, **glorifying God:** and all the people, when they saw it, **gave praise unto God.**
- Act 3:7-8 KJV And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, **walking, and leaping, and praising God.**

Some never say thank you

- Luk 17:15-18 KJV And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and **with a loud voice glorified God,** 16 And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. 17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? 18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

It is a hallmark of Spirit-filled Christians that we glorify Jesus

- Joh 16:13-14 KJV Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 **He shall glorify me:** for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Others [his opponents] were indignant

Luke 13:14-17 **Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath,** the synagogue leader 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 your 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.

- **Indignant** - because His way did not fit their religious institution
- **Humiliated** - because their hypocrisy was revealed

Mustard Seed & Yeast

- It begins small, but begins to grow [like a seed] and permeate everything [like yeast]
- Luke 13:18-21 Paul recently taught this...so no further comment

2) He Reaches Out Providing a Narrow Door / Gate?

Luke 13:22 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.'

Are Only A Few People Going to Be Saved?

- He did not answer the question directly
- Simply said - [You]make every effort to enter through the narrow door [gate]"

SOME will Make Every Effort

"make every effort" (NIV) or "strive" (KJV) is Greek *agonizomai*, which originally meant "engage in an athletic contest" and then "to fight, struggle." The word is used of wrestling in prayer (Colossians 4:12), and "fighting the good fight" (1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:7). One translation of this verse says "strain every nerve to enter." [1]

It is a Door - [Jesus is the door]

- A door is an opening between two places (inside or outside)
- It is "A DOOR" - singular - There are not many doors.
 - Joh 10:7-11 KJV Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. (picture of a sheepfold)

It is a Narrow Door

- It is **exclusive** - the Exclusivity of Christ - only one has shed His blood
- It is at the same time **inclusive** (Whosoever believes in Him will have eternal life)
- Who of us leaves the door open to our enemies?

Owner gets up and closes the door - sounds like Noah's ark

- Gen 7:15-16 KJV And they went in unto Noah into the arkand the LORD shut him in.
- There was only one door

Some will try and will not be able to

- Many will try to enter but will not be able to - **not because the way isn't open, but because they will not come through Jesus**
- "I don't know you" -- It is about relationship with Jesus

I don't know you

Luke 13:26-30 "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."

- Relationship with Christ is personal
 - It is not a matter of race (We are Abraham's Seed-Matt 3:8-9)
 - Or religion, or simply familiarity -
 - "we drank with you, you taught in our streets" (Luke 13:26)
 - "didn't we prophesy, drive out demons and perform miracles in your name??" (Matt 7:22) --- I never knew you
- There will be gnashing of teeth
 - many of these will be shocked...to see the Patriarchs at the feast with Gentiles

Commitments Are Decided Ahead of Time

Luke 13:31-33 At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." 32 He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' 33 In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day--for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!"

- What would you do if you were threatened like Jesus was?
- Commitments are typically NOT made in the moment, but are decided ahead of time

Am I Willing To Let Him Have His Way?

Luke 13:34-35 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often **I have longed to** gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and **you were not willing.** 35 Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

- What are the things the LORD longs to do in our lives?
- Am I willing to let Him have His way
- Am I making the effort for the narrow way?
- Am I one who praises and glorifies the Lord?

