

## Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship



*"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col 1:28*

## **"Freedom From Disease or Bondage to a System?"**

### **Luke 13:10-21**

June 18, 2023

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- 10 And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.
  - 11 And there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent double, and could not straighten up at all.
  - 12 When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your sickness."
  - 13 And He laid His hands on her; and immediately she was made erect again and began glorifying God.
  - 14 But the synagogue official, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, began saying to the crowd in response, "There are six days in which work should be done; so come during them and get healed, and not on the Sabbath day."
  - 15 But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites, does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the stall and lead him away to water him?"
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  - It is not unusual for Jesus to be teaching here and it is not unusual for Him to be thrown out.
  - Synagogues developed during the Babylonian captivity. Why? Israel had no temple.
  - It was a place to receive instruction, teaching. It was a gathering place.
  - There was a ruler who lined-up the teachers.
  - This occasion is on the Sabbath, therefore watch for "fireworks". Things can get heated real fast. (ch. 4,6,11)
  - So there is a woman who is in bad shape, physically. That is all we know about her. Age? Background? Poor or rich? Really doesn't matter.
  - What we do know is that: 1. she is a woman. 2. she is bent over. 3. In spite of her disease, she is at the synagogue. 4. A demon has caused the disease.
  - The Pharisees see her: 1. as lower class. 2. as one whose disease was caused by her sin.

1 Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.

2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate?"

3 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

4 "Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem?"

5 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."



“For eighteen years she had not gazed upon the sun; for eighteen years no star of night had gladdened her eye; her face was drawn downward towards the dust, and all the light of her life was dim: she walked about as if she were searching for a grave, and I do not doubt she often felt that it would have been gladness to have found one.”

- Spurgeon

“Now, for eighteen years, she had walked with her face toward the earth, as if she were looking for a grave. It had been eighteen years since she had...

Seen the noonday sun.

Looked upon a singing bird in the trees.

Beheld the star-lit sky.”

- Robert Cox

“Eighteen years! That is a long, long time. Eighteen years of happiness fly by more swiftly than we are able to fathom. Eighteen years of happiness is a short span of time. But eighteen years of misery, eighteen years of pain, eighteen years of being bowed down, who can measure that? Eighteen long years, each year dragging twelve miserable months behind it, each month pulling four heavy weeks, each week loaded with seven gloomy days, and each day loaded down with twenty-four grueling, painful, lonely hours! What grief! This woman had been in the bond of the devil for eighteen years, bowed together!”

- Don Fortner

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- Vs. 12 – she didn't come to be healed, she didn't ask to be healed. She was just there.
- Jesus is on the offensive here. He knows it is the Sabbath. That is His point.
- He calls her over. This is probably embarrassing for her. He heals her completely.
- Nothing here about her great faith. Nothing here about the casting out the demon.

**12 healings recorded so far by Luke -**

1. The Leper (Lk. 5:12-13).
2. The Paralyzed Man (Lk. 5:18-26).
3. The Unclean Multitudes (Lk. 6:18-19).
4. The Centurion's Servant (Lk. 7:1-10).
5. The Widow's Son (Lk. 7:11-17).
6. The Demon Possessed Women (Lk. 8:2-3).
7. The Gadarene (Lk. 8:26-36).
8. Jairus' Daughter (Lk. 8:41-42).
9. The Woman with the Issue of Blood (Lk. 8:43-48).
10. The Ruler of the Synagogue's Daughter (Lk. 8:49-56).
11. As Many as had need of healing (Lk. 9:11).
12. The Demon Possessed Child (Lk. 9:42).

“What Jesus did was totally sovereign, totally independent of her will, her wish, her faith or anybody else's for that matter. He healed people sometimes who had faith and sometimes who didn't. He healed people who asked for it and some who didn't. He healed people near and He healed people far. He healed people He was looking at and people He couldn't see. He cast demons out of people at will constantly. He had power over physical illness. He had power over the realm of demons. He cast demons out any time He chose to.”

- John MacArthur

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- But Jesus doesn't even refer to the demon here.
- Vs. 13 - He simply touched her. Jesus often touched people: He touched their blind eyes, He touched their deaf ears, He touched their dumb mouths which were unable to speak, He touched those who were crippled. He healed with a word and a touch.
- She is freed of 18 years of suffering!
- She begins to glorify God.
- Now who wouldn't want to rejoice over this?

**14 But the synagogue official, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, began saying to the crowd in response, "There are six days in which work should be done; so come during them and get healed, and not on the Sabbath day."**

- I'll tell you who wasn't rejoicing – the ruler of the synagogue.
- In fact he was indignant. He didn't like what just happened.
- Not over the fact that Jesus healed, but when He did it – on the Sabbath.
- Notice he does not address Jesus, but rather the crowd.
- He wants to warn the crowd. Other 6 days – fine.
- Nowhere in the OT will you find in the Law any prohibition to healing on the Sabbath. This was made-up.

**15 But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites, does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the stall and lead him away to water him?"**

- Jesus exposes their hypocrisy.
- They had no problem with caring for animals on the Sabbath.
- In fact the Mishnah (Jewish law) said the Jew could do that – care for people and animals. Doing so was a merciful act.
- But of course the Pharisees, rulers, Scribes, went far beyond that with their rules and regulations.
- That's what legalism is.
- Legalism carries authority.
- So animals are more important than people.

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- Jesus shows how ridiculous his thinking is -
  1. She is a woman, who was created in the image of God.
  2. She is a fellow-heir of the blessing promised to Abraham. Thus a "daughter of Abraham." She is one of your own people.
  3. Satan has bound her.
  4. For 18 long years.

- Do you have no mercy? Should she not be healed on the Sabbath?

**17 As He said this, all His opponents were being humiliated; and the entire crowd was rejoicing over all the glorious things being done by Him.**

**2 responses:**

1. The whole group of leaders were shamed. Absolutely put in their place. Why? Because the crowd knew that what Jesus was saying was true. Where was the work that Jesus did? They all cared for their animals on the Sabbath. So Jesus exposed the ruler and the others for what they were – a bunch of phonies.
2. Everyone in the crowd was rejoicing. They saw the healing. They saw the humiliation.

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"so" – οὕτως – accordingly, likewise, so, then, therefore.

- Jesus is telling us that what we have just witnessed is an example of what the kingdom of God is like.

2 parables (examples):

**1. "mustard seed"**

**Matt 13:31-32**

31 He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field;

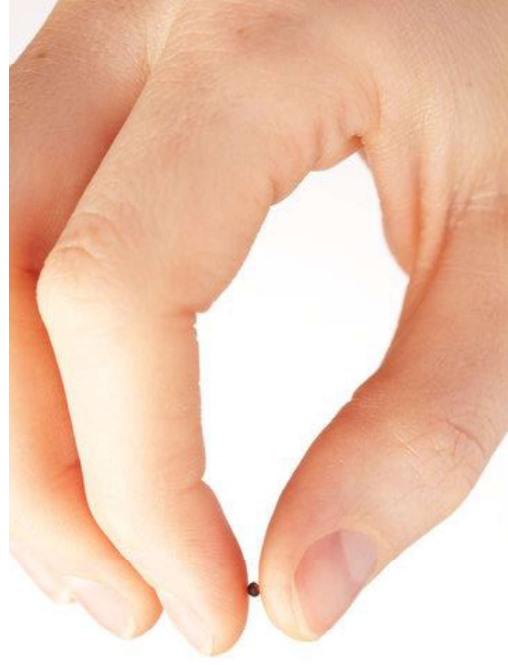
32 and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES."

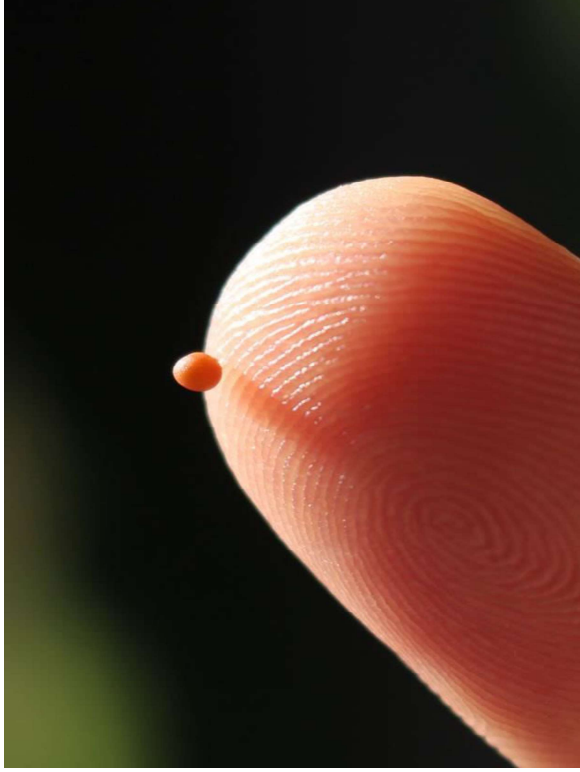
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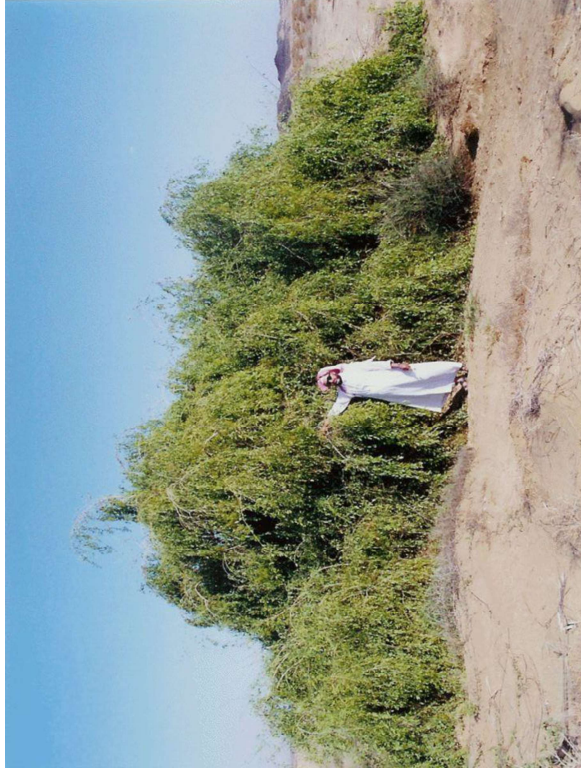




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- Of all the seeds that were ever agriculturally sown in a garden, this was and is the smallest. Does not include wild plants outside the garden.
- Seed is planted and grows into a large plant.
- "tree" – large shrub not a timber tree. 12' high X 15-17' broad.
- It is a plant, shrub, and resembles a tree.
- It was large enough for birds to build nests in.



### **Ezekiel 17:23**

23 "On the high mountain of Israel I will plant it, that it may bring forth boughs and bear fruit and become a stately cedar. And birds of every kind will nest under it; they will nest in the shade of its branches."

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- What is the meaning?

1. The kingdom is starting very small.

Birth of Jesus. 12 disciples. 500 at resurrection. 120 at Pentecost. 3,000. Acts 4,5 – 20,000. Spreads throughout the world.

### **Acts 1:8**

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

2. It expands 1 person at a time. Very gradual.
  3. It eventually will become large. Covers the entire world.
  4. The nations of the world will find blessing and shelter. In the Millennium Israel will be a blessing to all of the nations of the world.
- The mustard seed parable illustrates the **EXTERNAL** growth of the kingdom.
  - Here in Luke 13 Jesus is saying, "you are only seeing the start."

"Christianity is a religion which at first seems so feeble and helpless and powerless that it could not live. Its first founder was one who was poor in this world and He ended His life by dying the death of a malefactor on the cross. Its first adherence were a little company whose number probably did not exceed a thousand when the Lord Jesus left this world. Its first preachers were a few fishermen and publicans who were most of them unlearned and ignorant men. Its first starting point was a despised corner of the earth called Judea, a petty tributary province of the vast empire of Rome. Its first doctrine was eminently calculated to call forth the enmity of the natural heart, Christ crucified was to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks, foolishness. Its first movements brought down on its friends persecution from all quarters. Pharisees and Sadducees and Jews and Gentiles; ignorant idolaters and self-conceited philosophers all agreed in hating and opposing Christianity. It was a sect everywhere spoken against. These are no empty assertions. They're simple historical facts which no one can deny. If ever there was a religion that was a little grain of seed at its beginning, that religion was the gospel, but the progress of the gospel is great and steady and continuous."

- J. C. Ryle

**20 And again He said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God?**

**21 "It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened."**

- Baking bread was very familiar to the Jews.
- Leaven was a key ingredient to making bread.
- Leaven was used in the fermentation process of the bread.
- It permeated the bread and caused it to rise for baking.
- Leaven changes the character of the bread.
- You can't see it doing its work, but it's happening.

**What is the meaning?**

- The gospel will continue to spread and change people, 1 life at a time.
- It's not through politics, government, laws, legislation, man-made religion, or ????
- The leaven parable illustrates the **INTERNAL** growth of the kingdom.
- Missionaries are being sent, Bibles are being distributed, churches are being started, people are being evangelized, people are being saved, believers are being taught and disciplined. and the kingdom of God continues to have an influence in our world.
- Entering the Millennium, all Israel will be saved, millions perhaps billions of Gentiles from every nation, tribe, and tongue will be a part of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in the Millennial kingdom.

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**Application**

1. Dead, merciless, legalism with its system of rules and regulations never changed anybody, it only brings bondage.
2. Freedom comes from Jesus Christ.
3. Make no mistake, the kingdom of God continues to spread both externally and internally in the world.
4. Therefore, we as believers, are part of something much greater than anything else on this earth.