

Jesus the Healer

Bent Out Of Shape

GROWTH GUIDE SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 13:10-17

AUTHOR

Luke, a Greek, Gentile Christian, and physician, wrote his gospel around A.D. 60, from Rome or possibly Caesarea. He also wrote Acts, which is a sequel to the Gospel of Luke. Luke was a close friend and companion of the apostle Paul and wrote to Theophilus, which means one who loves God. Luke focuses on Jesus' relationships with people. His purpose in writing was to present an accurate account of the life of Jesus and to present Jesus as the perfect human and Savior.

CONTEXT

Jesus continues his ministry. In our scripture passage today, Jesus is teaching in the synagogue on the Sabbath. In the Jewish tradition, help could be given to the sick on the Sabbath only when a person's life was threatened. That was not the case in our scripture lesson. There was a popular belief that disabling conditions were due to evil.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 13:10-17. What word or phrase stands out to you in this passage?
2. Part of Jesus' healing ministry was to bring uprightness to those who were debilitated by disease. The woman who was present in the synagogue had been unable to stand up straight for 18 years. Do you think the woman had given up hope? How do you think she felt when Jesus interrupted his teaching to heal her?

3. How did Jesus heal the woman?
4. What was the woman's reaction? Can you imagine how her life suddenly changed?
5. Jesus got in trouble for healing on the Sabbath. Have you ever been criticized for doing something good to help someone?
6. You would think people would be thrilled for the woman but instead what was the synagogue leader's reaction? Why was he upset with Jesus?
7. What did the synagogue leader tell the crowd? If you had been standing in the crowd that day, what would your reaction have been? Read Luke 11:52 to see what Jesus had to say previously about the experts in religious law?
8. What was Jesus' response to the leader of the synagogue?
9. The word, hypocrites, is an important word in this passage. Why did Jesus call the people out as hypocrites? What were they concerned with?
10. Sometimes we get bent out of shape - in relationships, by unkind remarks, or our own attitudes or prejudices. What would it feel like if Jesus called us forward, touched the bent and broken places in us, and healed us?

ENCOURAGEMENT

We can trust in God to straighten out the bent places of our heart, mind, body, and spirit.

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