

The Hypocrisy of Legalism

Today's lesson occurred at the end of the earthly Galilean ministry of Jesus (Matt.4:23; Luke 13:1, 22). Our lesson text involves Jesus' last Galilean synagogue controversy with legalism over the healing of a crippled woman on the Sabbath. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following five homiletic points.

- **Synagogue** meeting (Lk.13:10)
 - One never to be forgotten.
- **Sickness** of crippled woman (Lk.13:11)
 - 18 years of suffering without relief.
- **Set free** from demon-induced sickness (Lk.13:12-13)
 - Completely healed immediately by Jesus.
- **Soap box** (Lk.13:14)
 - An attempt to correct Jesus' doctrinal teachings of grace to others.
- **Sabbath** controversy by legalism (Lk.13:15-17)
 - Hypocrisy points the finger at others while ignoring the pointing back to self.

We will study four aspects of the Hypocrisy of Legalism from the healing of the crippled Jewish woman by Jesus on a Sabbath in the synagogue.

1. **In this story, Jesus teaches us that a spiritual believer should always be conscious of his custodianship of evangelism and the word of God no matter what the circumstances as Ambassadors of Christ. (2 Cor.5:17-21)**

Jesus:

(Lk.19:10) "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which is lost."

(Lk.13:10) "And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath." **Pay attention to the ministries that came out of this ministry.**

Point: It is important the spiritual Church Age Believer (CAB) to be conscious of always being in the right place at the right place with the right attitude for ministry.

2. **In this story, the crippled woman teaches us how important positive volition toward God consciousness is to one's life especially after falling away from God for a long period.**

(Lk.13:16) "And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom **Satan has bound for 18 long years**, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?"

She was suffering from a terrible demon-induced sickness of the fusion of the entire spinal system that caused her to be "bent double" (Lk.13:11).

She dabbled with divination of demons that resulted in demon possession. This cannot happen to a believer because of the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6:19-20; 1 John 4:4).

Demon possession took control of her life – “Satan has bound for 18 **long years.**” (Lk.13:16a)

She needs a miracle from God. She went to the synagogue to meet with spiritual people in hopes of finding it.

It does not say she went because she knew Jesus was speaking and make contact with Him.

But rather it says, (Lk.13:12) “When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, ‘Woman, you are freed from your sickness.’”

3. In this story, the legalistic synagogue leader began teaching another form of demonic bondage.

(1 Tim.4:10) “But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.”

“But the synagogue official, **indignant** (aganakteo / p.a.ptc.nsm) **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.’” (Lk.13:14)

He jumped upon his legalistic doctrinal soap box. Note that he didn’t direct it to Jesus nor the woman but the CROWD. But he did condemn them to the crowd for healing on the Sabbath.

He has misplaced zeal because of a false interpretation of the Scriptures (Gen.2:2-3; Ex.20:8). He gave a heated strongest argument based on his false interpretation.

He has ignored that Satan doesn’t stop his work on the Sabbath. Who stops Satan work on any day?

In this story,

They were quoting from the Tradition of the Elders false interpretation of Mosaic Law regarding the Sabbath such as how many knots could be tied to rope on donkey and not be considered work or that they could take a donkey to water but not carry water to the donkey.

Jesus asks a rhetorical question to the legalists

(Lk.13:15) “Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the stall and lead him to water?” (It expects the answer YES).

Point: They have bent Sabbath Law for suffering animals both clean and unclean but forbid relief for the suffering of a daughter of Abraham.

Point: Legalism has replaced the **blessing of** the Sabbath with the burden of the law.

(Gen.2:3) “Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.”

Legalism wouldn’t allow a healthy donkey to suffer but would allow a daughter of Abraham to suffer for 18 years, and it is still prevalent in our churches today.