

Are We Honoring Jesus as Lord – Part 7: Luke 13:10-17 ESV

Are We Taking Loving Action or Making Excuses?

Services: Wednesday, March 2 at 11 AM & 7 PM

Church Year: Fourth Wednesday of Lent – 2016

During Lent: Wednesday Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ:

- ➔ Love is *sacrificial action* – an action to which our old nature says “No,” but our new nature says “Yes.”
- ➔ Love is *not for our benefit*, but for others:
 - Toward God our love *acts to keep His commandments*, which honors Him!
 - Toward others our love *acts to provide their needs*, which blesses them!

Today we will hear about Jesus taking loving action for a suffering woman. May His loving action inspire us to take loving action toward God and others!

1. **Jesus’ Loving Action:** ¹⁰ Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. ¹² When Jesus saw her [He cared about her, so], he called her over and said to her, **“Woman, you are freed from your disability** [so He told her *the wonderful news*].” ¹³ **And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and**

she glorified God. ¹⁴ But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant [*angry*] because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, “There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day.”

- a. How did Jesus view the disabled woman? She had a need, *one that had persisted for 18 years*; furthermore, Jesus had the ability to fulfill her need; therefore, **He took loving action and she was blessed!**
- b. What did God command regarding Saturdays? “Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day [*which is Saturday*] is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day” (Ex. 20:9-11 ESV).
- c. Was Jesus’ action work or was it love? Work is doing something *for oneself*, while love is doing something *for someone else*. So Jesus’ action was *love* rather than *work*!
- d. How did the woman respond? *She glorified God!* For 18 years she had been doubled over; then, *immediately*, she was healed! When a situation seems hopeful – *the medicine or the doctor receives the credit*; but when a situation seems hopeless – *God gets the credit, the glory!*

2. **Jesus' Excellent Response:** ¹⁵ Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham [*a woman who had the faith of Abraham*] whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" ¹⁷ As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame, and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

- a. Why did Jesus call them "hypocrites"? They cared for *their needy animals* on the Sabbath, but they were unwilling to care for *needy people* on the Sabbath. *Let us not be hypocrites!*
- b. We love ourselves, even our pets, but do we love God and others?
 - i. When it comes to God and money, Jesus said people "**will be devoted to the one and despise the other**" (Mt. 6:24 ESV). Think about your life, your decisions, *to which one are you devoted and which one do you despise?*
 - ii. When it comes to others, Jesus said, "**You shall love your neighbor as yourself**" (Mk. 12:31 ESV). Keep in mind that *everyone is our neighbor*, not just the guy next door. Let's think about Jesus' statement:
 1. Do we care about **our food, clothing, and shelter**? Yes, *then we should care about **our neighbor's food, clothing, and shelter!***

2. Do we care about where **we will spend eternity** – *either with God or apart from God*? Sure we do, *it's very important*; then we should also do what we can to help **our neighbor** be sure about his entrance into heaven through Jesus!
- c. Are we rejoicing in the glorious things God has done? I hope so, *but sometimes we can become dull to the amazing things of God*. If that happens, what is the remedy?
 - i. Dig into the Word of God to rediscover God's amazing miracles; then think about them, put yourself into each scene, and rejoice in the glorious things God has done!
 - ii. Step out in faith by living the Word of God; it can be scary at first, but *God will bless you and you will rejoice in the glorious things He does!*

Conclusion: Let us pray: Dear Lord Jesus, we thank You for showing love *for the woman and for us*, even though Your actions were difficult. Now, *rejoicing in Your salvation and inspired by Your love*, help us to move forward in *an excuse-free manner* to love You and others! In Your name we pray, amen!