



## The Gospel According to Luke

### Wk. 69 "When Perspective Gets in the Way"

By Pastor Jody May

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#### Luke 13:10-17 ESV

#### A Woman with a Disabling Spirit

<sup>10</sup> Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your disability." <sup>13</sup> And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God. <sup>14</sup> But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant 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." <sup>15</sup> 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? <sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" <sup>17</sup> 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.

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#### Opening Illustration:

Are you a **half-glass full** kind of person or are you the **glass is half-empty** type? That is an important thing to ask yourself every once in a while, because it teaches a person that how one sees the world is tainted by how one perceives it...

So much of how we react to the world is based on the feelings and desires of our hearts instead of the Objectifiable Truths of God.

Bearing the Fruit of Repentance requires a person to be aware that the way you view the world may be a little off...

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.  
**Rom. 12:2**



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#### Background information:

For our sermon today I want to make us aware of the different perceptions that were alive that day at the synagogue.

The Sabbath, you have heard that term multiple times in the Bible, what exactly is that? Some people refer to the Sabbath as Sunday, especially here in the south. In that day it was the last day of the week that the Jews were told by Moses to keep it holy, set it apart, and take a break. It was a reflection of God taking a break and resting in the act of creation. BUT over the years especially since the Jews had returned back to Judea from a Babylonian captivity, the practice had taken on a different flavor.

The dominant perception of the Sabbath had become that it was the **pinnacle of your rule following**. During the week no-one really had insight into anyone’s life except on the Sabbath, everybody knew that you were supposed to not work, and you should report to the synagogue for teaching if it was available. So, the Sabbath had become this day for **metric measurement** to see how **holy** you were, compared to others, which set one up for the week on how you would be viewed by your neighbors. On the downside, it took a lot of work to get prepared for it and there wasn’t a lot of wiggle room for when you needed to finish your weekly tasks.

Now as far as a synagogue it is not the same as the temple, there are no sacrifices made there, there is no office space, no living quarters. It was a place where Jewish people congregated on the Sabbath. It was run by lay elders. That is elder people in that Jewish Community, that were placed in charge of the facilities and the procurement of traveling Rabbis, which were qualified to supply teaching on the Sabbath.

They took care of the property, they led in the support of care of those in the community that needed it, and by proxy lead in the attitude and perception of the religious God-fearing people in that town. Make no mistake you are definitely an influencer even though you did hold the title of priest or rabbi.



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Even though I didn't live in this day and age I know this culture. It is reminiscent of what my Uncle Snooks experiences in the back part of Pierre Bossier in rural Louisiana. Uncle Snooks and Aunt Cecil live about 200 yards behind their church where my uncle **serves as a deacon**. They are there every Sunday, Aunt Cecil used to run the kitchen once a month for their meals, Snooks cuts the yard and maintains the tractor. They visit the sick and spend time on the phone with the congregants. BUT they don't have a full-time pastor, instead the LBC provides them speakers, traveling preachers, to give the sermon on Sundays.

The church functions ok, at least when it comes to facility management and care of individuals, but it lacks evangelistic fervor, growth, and perhaps people striving in holiness because of the lack of leadership. All that to say, that they are a people that are controlled by the older congregants like my uncle, for better or for worse. That means the **church begins to take on the perceptions**, the values, of the older members instead of having their perception or Vision supplied by the Word of God through a man that spends his time trying to discern just what that is.

Let's jump back 2k years ago again, and now let's go through our story today trying to understand hopefully with some clarity. We have here a town, steeped in the Judaism of the day, influenced by the Pharisees, that **their worth was tied up in their works**, which were **most evidently displayed** on the **sabbath**. The one in charge of the synagogue on the sabbath would be the pinnacle of this display portraying for the community how they should present themselves, especially at the synagogue. He would have to answer any charge by the leaders of Judaism if he did not keep to their interpretation of the law, perhaps even losing his coveted leadership. Anything threatening his leadership in that town directly threatened his prestige as well.

It is on top of all of this, **that Jesus walks into town**, and because of His popularity He is offered the chance to teach at the synagogue on the sabbath. If we have learned anything about Jesus up to this point, we all know it was a bad idea for this synagogue ruler to let Jesus speak. Every time we see Him speak in a synagogue; we see Him disrupt all you thought was Holy. **Jesus is all about changing perceptions...**



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### 1. Fixing a Downward Gaze

<sup>11</sup> And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself.

Eighteen years.... That is a long time. I remember the elation when I finally graduated high school. It was finally being able to go from being considered a kid, escaping parental control, being able to make choices for myself, getting to that 18-year point of arrival seemed liked an eternity. This poor woman had experienced 18 years of bondage and had lost all hope of anything changing in her life. **[Camptocormia, also referred to as bent spine syndrome (BSS)]**

It says also in the text that the cause was a **disabling spirit, demonically triggered**. It doesn't mean that it wasn't caused by BSS but that it was initially put upon her by evil design. **She was a target**. This evil ailment would have caused her more trouble than what we see at first glance.

- Remember what the **perception/theology** of that day was. If you suffered from a disease like this it was most likely you or your parents that had done something wrong, there was sin involved. Remember the blood of the Galileans, the perception of Job's friends, the blind man in John 9?
- Most likely meant that people, outside her family, helped her reluctantly not wanting to come into contact with her.
- The synagogue ruler may have even kept people from helping her that wanted to.
- Every day of her life was a struggle to function not being able to look ahead no more than 3 feet at a time. **Quite literally she never had rest! But that was all going to change this SABBATH!**

Let me encourage us all here a moment, many of you (perhaps not physically) are suffering from a Downward Gaze/**Downtrodden** (*oppression, persecuted, crushed, burdened, victimized*). Life has had its way with you lately. You have been disappointed in a relationship, you have felt like no one knows you or how you have been suffering, it may seem like it never gets better this condition you are in. Let me point out some reality to you for a moment because I have been there



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myself and more importantly Jesus has gone through that (*A Man acquainted with sorrows and stricken by grief – Is. 53:3-5*) It could even be that you are suffering from a direct attack from the demonic world, but even so, that is not something outside God’s power to fix and it is even not outside of God’s will to use.

That woman showed up that day to the synagogue not by chance because everything that Jesus does, every healing that takes place because miracles are for the specific purpose of declaring the Kingdom has come, she showed up because **every time you are in the presence of Jesus, you are there by divine appointment** there is no other reason!

That means, being His people, living in His Kingdom, every downward gaze you encounter is divinely allowed **SO THAT you may come to know the glory of God.**

*<sup>12</sup>When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your disability.” <sup>13</sup>And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God.*

Her first reaction to standing up was giving God praise for what had just happened. Jesus, the only one with the power to deliver a person from the demonic world, He doesn’t cast the spirit out first, he just says your free! He touches this unclean woman, and with no rehab, no stretching, no Chiropractic manipulation, she stands up. The **first thing she does is give God praise** for she may not know that Jesus was her king yet, but she knew, the only thing that could fix her problem, was the **sovereign act of God almighty.**

She had been unable to praise God, unable to be accepted by her town as a clean woman, and unable to make atonement for whatever sin her family had did to cause this horrible condition. **BUT NOW she could REPENT** because God had first acted in her life through her deliverance – **Repenting is responding with Faith to God’s gifts of Grace.** She could now love others because she could touch them again, she could talk to people and look them in the eye, and she doesn’t even need to go to temple now because according to their religion the release of this malady meant her sins were forgiven.



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Perhaps today, you are stuck in your downward/downtrodden gaze **BUT could it be**, that you have been allowed to be there so that when Jesus delivers you by His mighty hand you **too can give God glory!?** Maybe this is the way that Jesus is enabling you to **bear the fruit of your repentance**, He is working out that last chance HE gave you (13:8). **He is allowing you this time of misery so that you will know without Him your deliverance is impossible!** BTW the only way to produce the fruit of repentance is when you recognize Jesus can and has delivered you **by GRACE ALONE!**

This woman’s gaze was not the only perception he was fixing this day, look at what was going on with the synagogue ruler and it may help you in your path to Repentance.

### 2. Dealing with Religious Misconceptions

<sup>14</sup> But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant 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.”

Right in the middle of this woman glorifying God, giving Him credit for what was done, the ruler of this synagogue reprimands her, and teaches a lesson to the people. The text says he was **indignant or sorely displeased** with this miracle. Now, I want you to stop here a moment and take that in. This guy, most likely has been working for this community for a while, this was not a job for the young. The most dynamic man in the known world has just shown up at your place, He has performed a miracle in your church no less, the people have seen God in the physical world at work, and **you complain about it INSTEAD** of jumping on the **Praise Wagon!?**

This has got to mean that this man and Jesus see the Kingdom of God from **different perspectives**, for it did not bother Jesus at all to perform this miracle in a synagogue on a Sabbath.



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The logical issue the ruler must deal with is that Jesus performs a work and it is a work that **MUST include God**, He must check off on it, **because it uses DIVINE power!** The ruler was living under the assumption the way to make God happy is to do absolutely nothing on the Sabbath. **Jesus does work that brings people peace so they can rest, the ruler promotes living in such a way that promotes spiritual hardship.** The core of the Gospel is believing and perceiving that Jesus does the work for Salvation AND the sad truth is, **if we choose** to live under the perception that rules can save you it curses you with **spiritual blindness**.

#### Galatians 3:10-11 ESV

<sup>10</sup> For all who rely on **works of the law** are **under a curse**; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” <sup>11</sup> Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”

When you are blind to the truth it will make you think some crazy things. This guy saw his power diminish by what Jesus was doing and freaked out and reprimanded people that were there to see Him. **It will make religious people (US) do the same thing!** When Jesus works around you and it doesn't congeal with your perception of how you think God works you will react to those around you who are experiencing God with joy.

You will get jealous when people are blessed especially when you think their behavior doesn't warrant it.

You won't think it is right when people don't feel as guilty as you do about sin. You think people are ignorant when they don't practice or know Christianity as you do.

Because being cursed under the law, blind to how Jesus works, will make you do some **CRAZY THINGS**.

That's the danger of having faulty religious misconceptions but now lastly, I want to show us what does it look like when those conceptions are cleared up.

### 3. Experiencing the Lord of the Sabbath



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<sup>15</sup> 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? <sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?”

This is a pretty straightforward piece of scripture, for you have seen Jesus call pharisees hypocrites before. A Few weeks back He we went through the dangers of falling into hypocrisy, pretending to be something you’re not. We said then that the best way to avoid hypocrisy, which leads us to hell, is **to acknowledge the Trinitarian God and what He wants to do. It means we must view the world not as what makes us happy but what makes God happy.** The Father loves to glorify the Son and the Son loves to glorify the Father all through the HS and His will to reveal the workings of God. Jesus loves to show the will of God as a loving God that wants to bring you rest, **therefore we should do two things:**

- Let us view each other as people deserving respect for Christ loves all His people the same.

God’s people, that suffer from a downward gaze, **the downtrodden**, in front of others are not there to be made fun of, to think less of, nor to make you think better of yourself. They are there to bring glory to God, which gives them worth. That’s God’s perception of people which should manipulate how you view others.

- Come together as much as you can to witness the miracles of Jesus at work.

These people knew this woman, possibly even some of them were there when this woman began to show the signs of this infirmity. They had witnessed years of trial in her life, years of neglect by the town, and years of believing the worse about her. All of that made this great revelation that when she was saved it all changed in an instant, not just for her but for the people!

<sup>17</sup> 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.





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If we all want to see our perceptions change about the Kingdom, how it works, to have our downward gaze turned upward, to have our religious misconceptions righted, to experience the Lord of the Sabbath doing the miraculous work then please decide to do one thing for yourself. **Commit to this body of believers and spend as much time with you as you can!** How else will you learn the stories about one another and see the how lives are changed?

God’s revelation grows in direct relationship with two things, if you want this, if you are serious about bearing that fruit of repentance, to change your mind.

**God’s revelation grows when He fixes problems that you had no idea could be fixed and His revelation grows the more you hear the preaching of His Word.**

Change takes time so are you making your church family, a **priority in your life?** To change your perceptions of how the world works requires the use of this body, for that is how the HS will show you He’s alive and real when you see Him straightening out the spiritual spines around you so that people may give glory to God. That is when you will truly experience Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath and experience true rest for yourself.

#### **PRAY**

#### **COMMUNION**

#### **BENEDICTION**

Go in the name of the Father, that is patient and will even use that which haunts you to bring Him glory bringing you ultimate joy.

Go in the name of the Son, that accomplished what the law demanded and delivers to us the peace of living by Grace through Faith.

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that opens our eyes to the revelations of God’s power in the body changing our perceptions to align with the Kingdom’s.