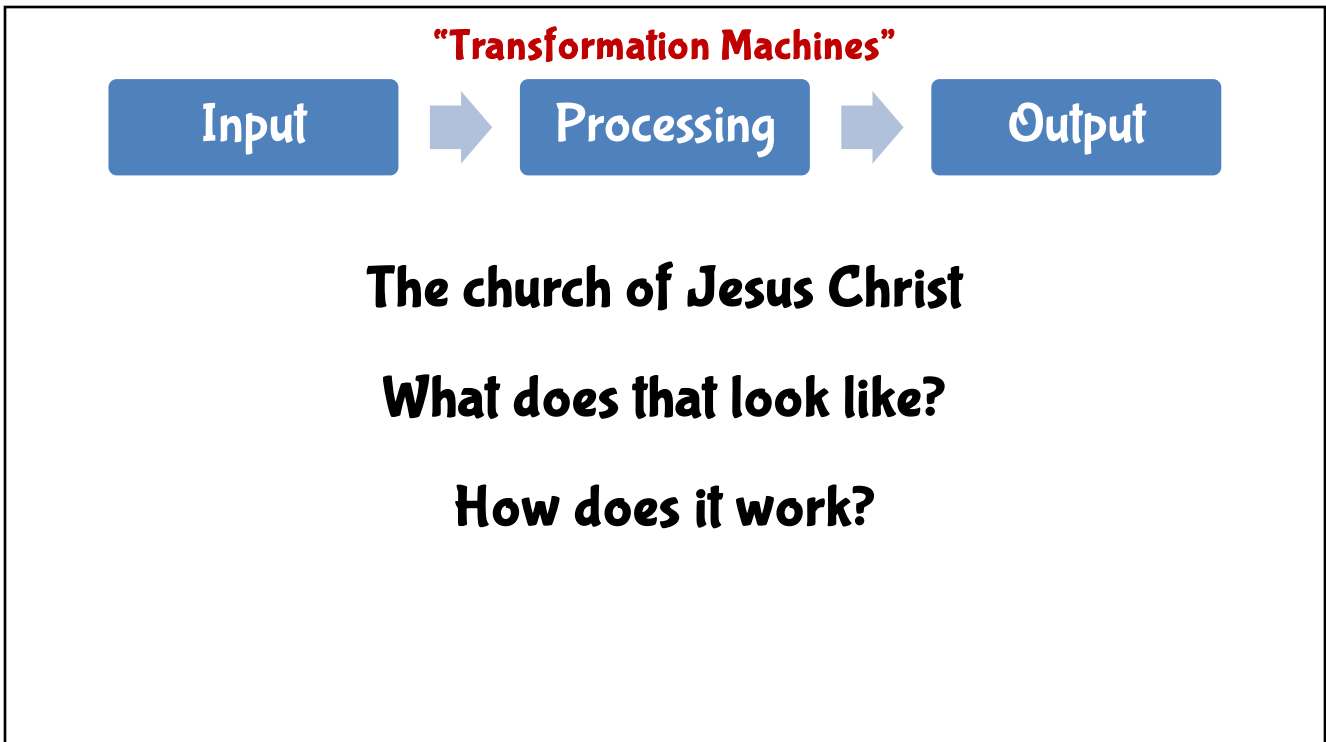
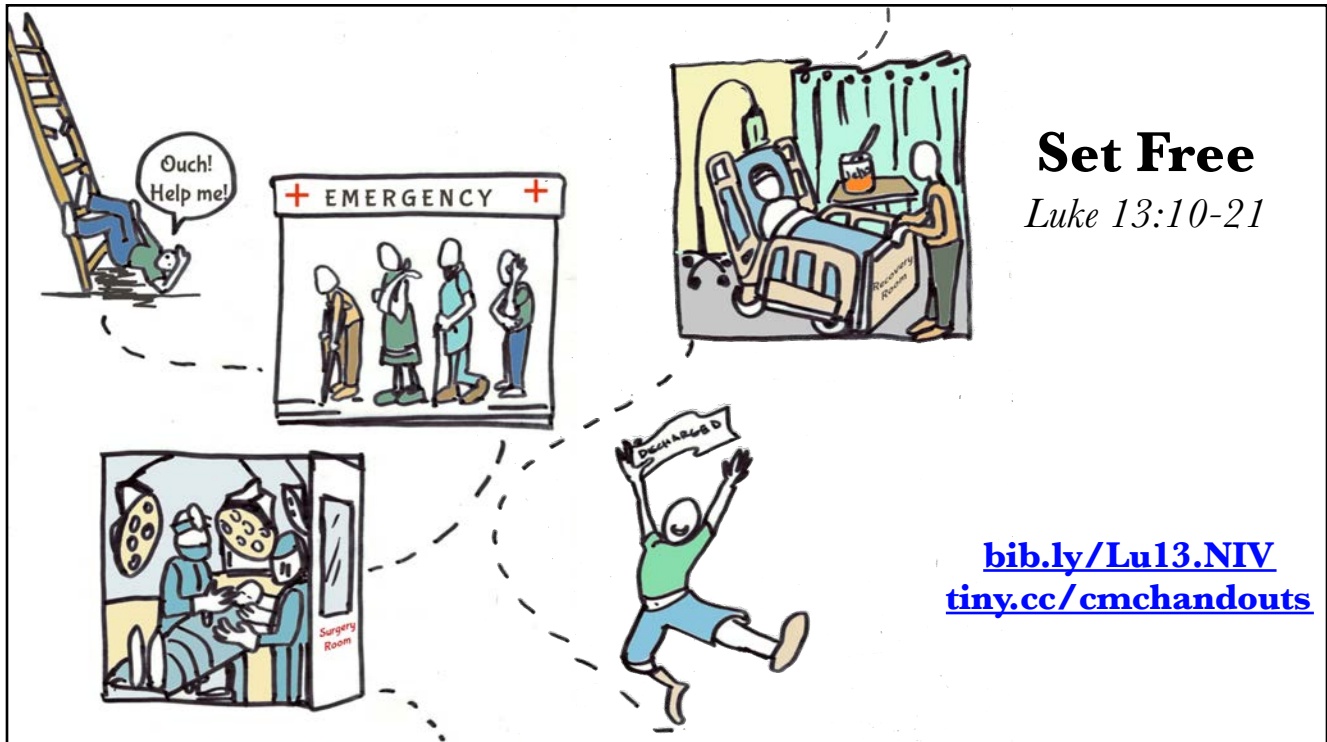


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3

Jesus' introduction as the Messiah

He went to His hometown synagogue, and he read Scripture:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim the good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim the good news for the **powerful**
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the **righteous** free,
to proclaim the Lord's favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them,
“Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” *Luke 4:18-21*

4

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“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” *Luke 4:18-21*

5

What came before this passage in Luke 13...

The problem of a **fruitless tree**

The problem of a **fruitless people** that claims to follow God

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and **haven’t found any**. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

“‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! **If not, then cut it down.**’” *Luke 13:6-9*

6

What came before this passage in Luke 13...

The problem of a **fruitless tree**

The problem of a **fruitless people** that claims to follow God

What does a **fruitless** people of God look like?

What might a **fruitful** people of God look like?

7

Luke 13:10-13

On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been **crippled by a spirit** for **eighteen years**. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” Then he put his hands on her, and **immediately** she straightened up and **praised God**.

Sabbath = Saturday (Jewish holy day)

infirmity = suffering, disability

8

*Luke 13:10-21***10-13: Woman released from bondage on the Sabbath**

- Setting: “On a Sabbath...in a synagogue...”
 - Much like us right now...
- Woman’s problem was both physical and spiritual
 - My modern desire to separate them cleanly doesn’t fit here
- 18 years!
 - Certainly the local community recognized her
 - The miracle couldn’t be denied
- Jesus took the initiative, not the woman
- Immediate “release” from bondage
- Her first response: Praise God!

14-16:

17:

18-21:

9

Luke 13:14-16

Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, “There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.”

The Lord **answered him**, “You **hypocrites!** Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then **should not** this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom **Satan** has kept bound for eighteen long years, be **set free** on the Sabbath day from what bound her?”

indignant = angry, perhaps believing Jesus should ‘know better’

10

Luke 13:10-21

10-13: Woman released from bondage on the Sabbath

14-16:

- Synagogue leader: responsible for the synagogue service
 - Bothered by this teacher who is breaking the Sabbath law
 - “For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day shall be your holy day, a day of sabbath rest to the Lord. **Whoever does any work on it is to be put to death.**” *Exodus 35:2*
 - Only life-threatening issues could be dealt with on the Sabbath
- Jesus (“The Lord”) accused them of hypocrisy
 - They made exceptions for animals, but not for people!
- “Untie” = “Set free” (same Greek word)
- “Should” = “divine necessity” → not just an option!

17:

18-21:

- Jesus’ work: release people from the power of Satan

11

What is the real purpose of the Sabbath?

“Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day. *Deuteronomy 5:12-15*”

12

Luke 13:10-21

10-13: Woman released from bondage on the Sabbath

14-16: Jesus: the Sabbath is for releasing people from bondage

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- 17: Jesus’ work: release people from the power of Satan
- 18-21:

13

Luke 13:17

When he said this, **all** his opponents were humiliated, but **all** the people were delighted with **all** the wonderful things he was doing.

14

Luke 13:10-21

10-13: Woman released from bondage on the Sabbath

14-16: Jesus: the Sabbath is for releasing people from bondage

17: Division over Jesus: praise & joy, or humiliation

- ALL
 - ALL Jesus' opponents were humiliated
 - ALL the people were delighted
 - because of ALL the wonderful things Jesus was doing
- Right responses
 - Praise God
 - Rejoicing
- The rest
 - Speechless humiliation → a fruitless tree

18-21: • So what does a fruitful tree look like?

15

Luke 13:18-21

Then Jesus asked, “What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like **a mustard seed**, which a man took and **planted** in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.”

Again he asked, “What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? It is like **yeast** that a woman took and **mixed** into about **sixty pounds** of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

16

Luke 13:10-21

10-13: Woman released from bondage on the Sabbath

14-16: Jesus: the Sabbath is for releasing people from bondage

17: Division over Jesus: humiliation and joy

18-21: Jesus: God's work is with the small and lowly

- Jesus describes God's kingdom with authority
- God's kingdom work is...
 - Small and hard to see ("under the radar")
 - With small and unimportant people
 - Like a lowly woman with a curved spine
 - Seemingly lost in the overwhelming need for transformation
 - Human powers continue to resist
- Yet it will be victorious and cover the world!

17

Luke 13:10-21

10-13: **Woman released from bondage on the Sabbath**

14-16: **Jesus: the Sabbath is for releasing people from bondage**

17: **Division over Jesus: humiliation and joy**

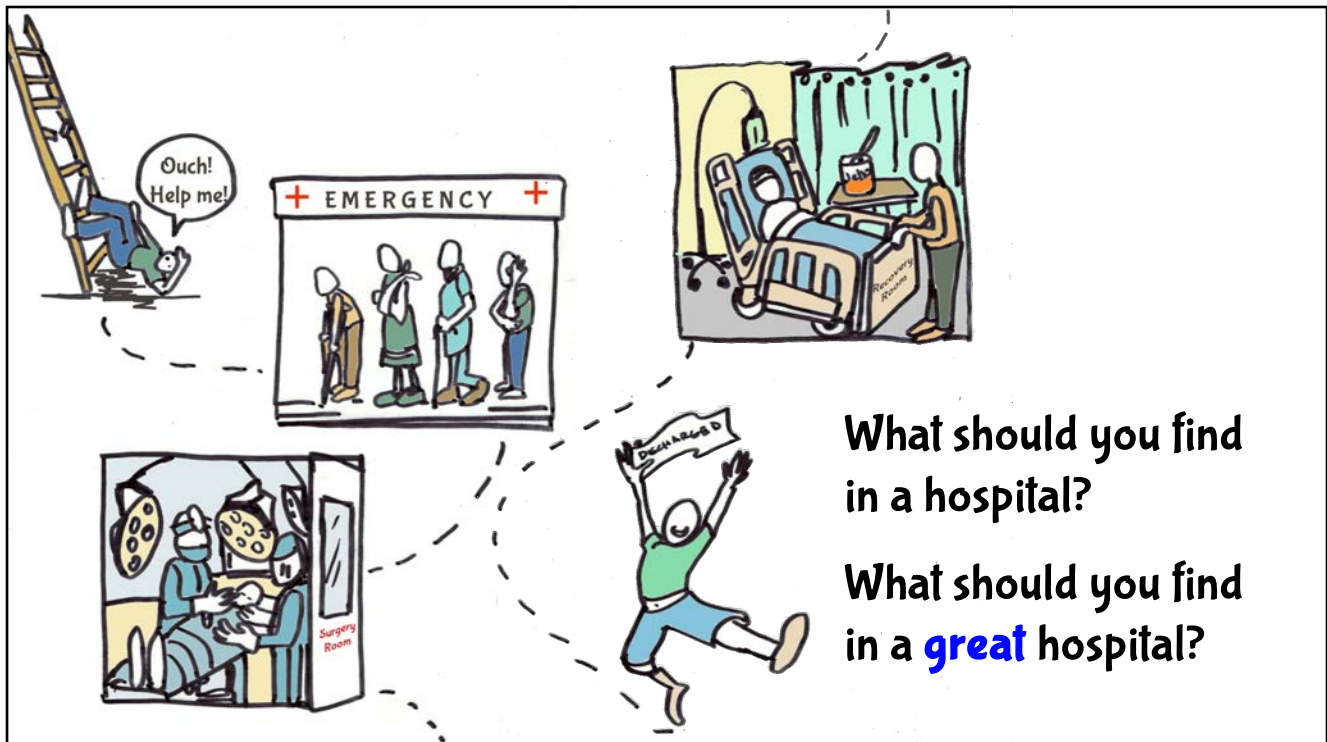
18-21: **Jesus: God's work is with the small and lowly**

18

The Big Idea

**God's Kingdom is where God is working
to release the lowly
who are under the weight of the troubles
of sin and a sinful world
that one day will bring LIFE to all who will enter it**

19



20

Looking for fruit in God's vineyard

- **Sabbath in the Synagogue**
 - **Jewish leaders' view: Where God's rules are followed best**
 - **Where righteous people gather**
 - **Jesus' view: Where God's work is happening most!**
 - “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” *Luke 4:18-19*

21

Looking for fruit in God's vineyard

- **Sabbath in the Synagogue**
 - **Jewish leaders' view: Where God's rules are followed best**
 - **Where righteous people gather**
 - **Jesus' view: Where God's work is happening most!**
 - **The poor experience good**
 - **The prisoners experience forgiveness & freedom**
 - **The blind see**
 - **The oppressed experience deliverance & freedom**

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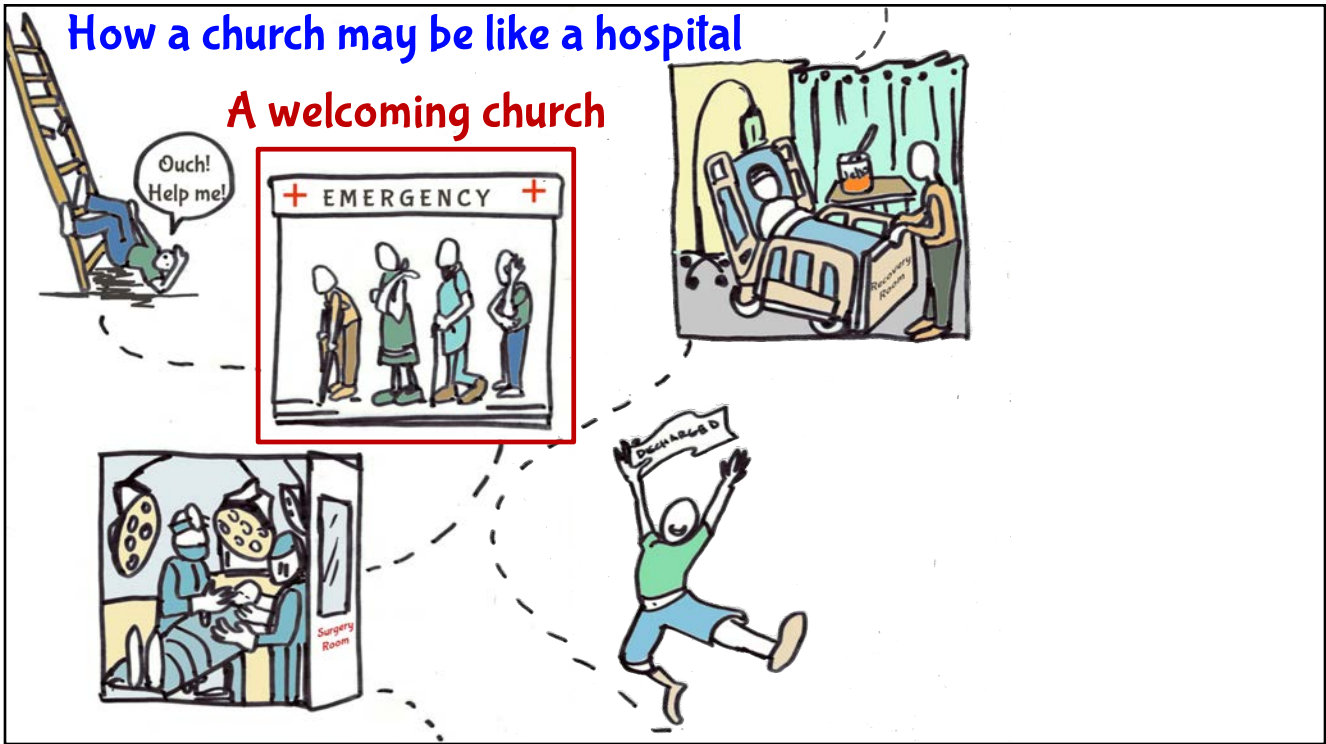
Looking for fruit in God's vineyard

- The Church and a worship service today
 - **A broken view: Where God's rules are followed best**
 - Where righteous people gather
 - **Jesus' view: Where God's work is happening most!**
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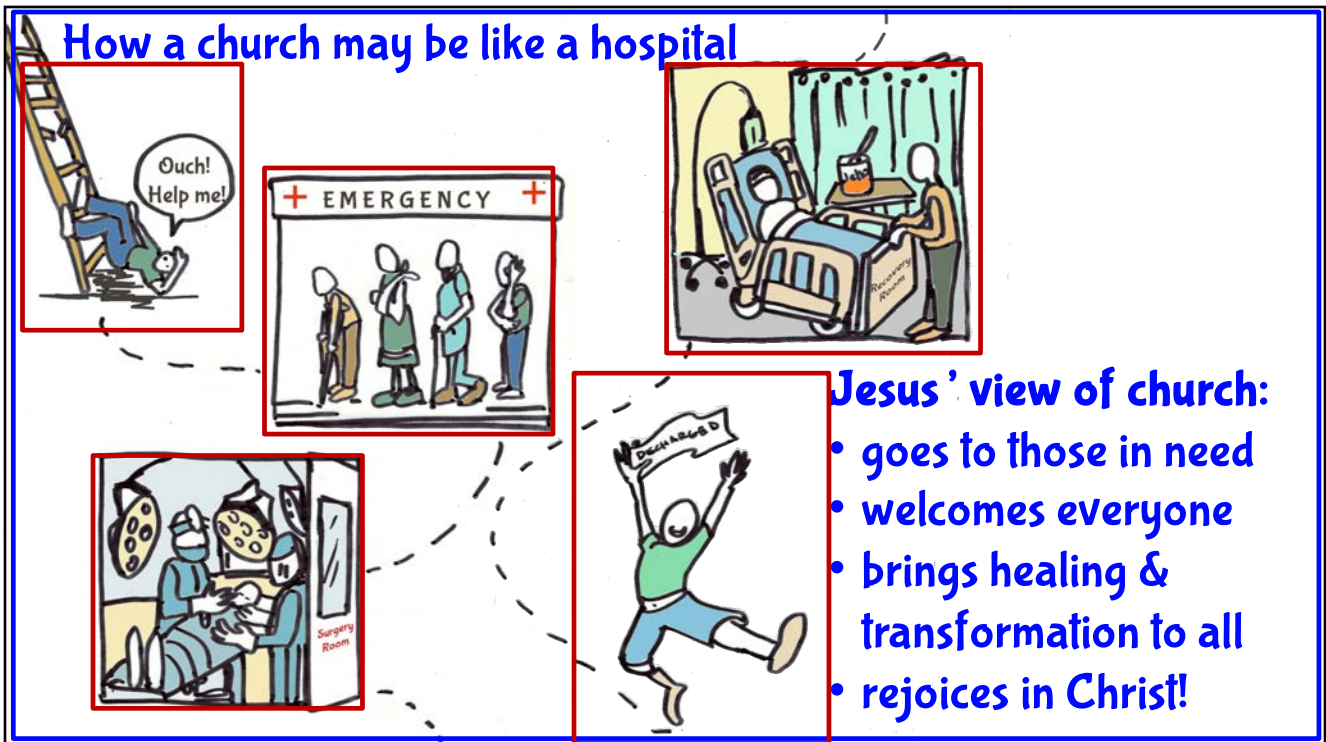
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Looking for fruit in God's vineyard

- The Church and a worship service today
 - Where God's work is happening most!
 - Filled with people who need the grace and peace of God
 - Angry people, hurt people, sick people, discouraged people, "sinful" people, proud people, ...
 - Who are in the process of experiencing transformation in Christ

Crossway Vision Statement

Welcoming and transforming the peoples of many nations
to be united in the praise of God in Christ

27

The Big Idea

God's Kingdom is where God is working
to release the lowly
who are under the weight of the troubles
of sin and a sinful world

that one day will bring LIFE to all who will enter it

"Strategic thinking" says: get the powerful, the opinion leaders,
the wealthy, the gifted and the righteous,
then you will be able to build a thriving church

"Jesus thinking" says: get the weak, the lowly, the poor, like yeast hidden
the powerless and the sinners, and Jesus will build His church in dough

28

Application

Welcome us all as we really are

- **Temptation 1: in church, show the best view of us we can**
– **Make it seem like we don't need any help**
- Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. **I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**" *Luke 5:31-32*
- Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but **now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.**" *John 9:39-41*

29

Application

Welcome us all as we really are

- **Temptation 1: in church, show the best view of us we can**
– **Make it seem like we don't need any help**
- **Temptation 2: judge (and avoid) people who seem like they need more help than we claim we do**
- "You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, **you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.**" *Romans 2:1*
- Jesus said: "**Do not judge, or you too will be judged.** For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." *Matthew 7:1-2*

30

Application

Welcome us all as we really are

- “We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ...
Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” *Romans 15:1, 7*

31

Application

Welcome us all as we really are

Seek God's work to transform us all

- **Temptation 1: to confuse patience with low expectations**
- Jesus said: “**Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**” *Matthew 5:48*
- Because God's power has given us everything we need for a godly life, “**make every effort** to add to your **faith goodness**; and to goodness, **knowledge**; and to knowledge, **self-control**; and to self-control, **perseverance**; and to perseverance, **godliness**; and to godliness, **mutual affection**; and to mutual affection, **love.**” *2 Peter 2:5-7*

32

Application

Welcome us all as we really are

Seek God's work to transform us all

- **Temptation 1: to confuse patience with low expectations**
- **Temptation 2: to confuse forgiveness with acceptance of sin**
- “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith **but has no deeds**? Can such faith save them?” *James 2:14*
- “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but **only one gets the prize**? **Run in such a way as to get the prize.** Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.” *1 Corinthians 9:24-25*

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Application

Welcome us all as we really are

Seek God's work to transform us all

To the praise of God in Christ

- **Temptation: to turn the promise of God's love into a heart that is cold to God's love**
- “Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and **praised God.**” *Luke 13:13*
- “But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. **Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever.** Amen.” *1 Timothy 1:16-17*

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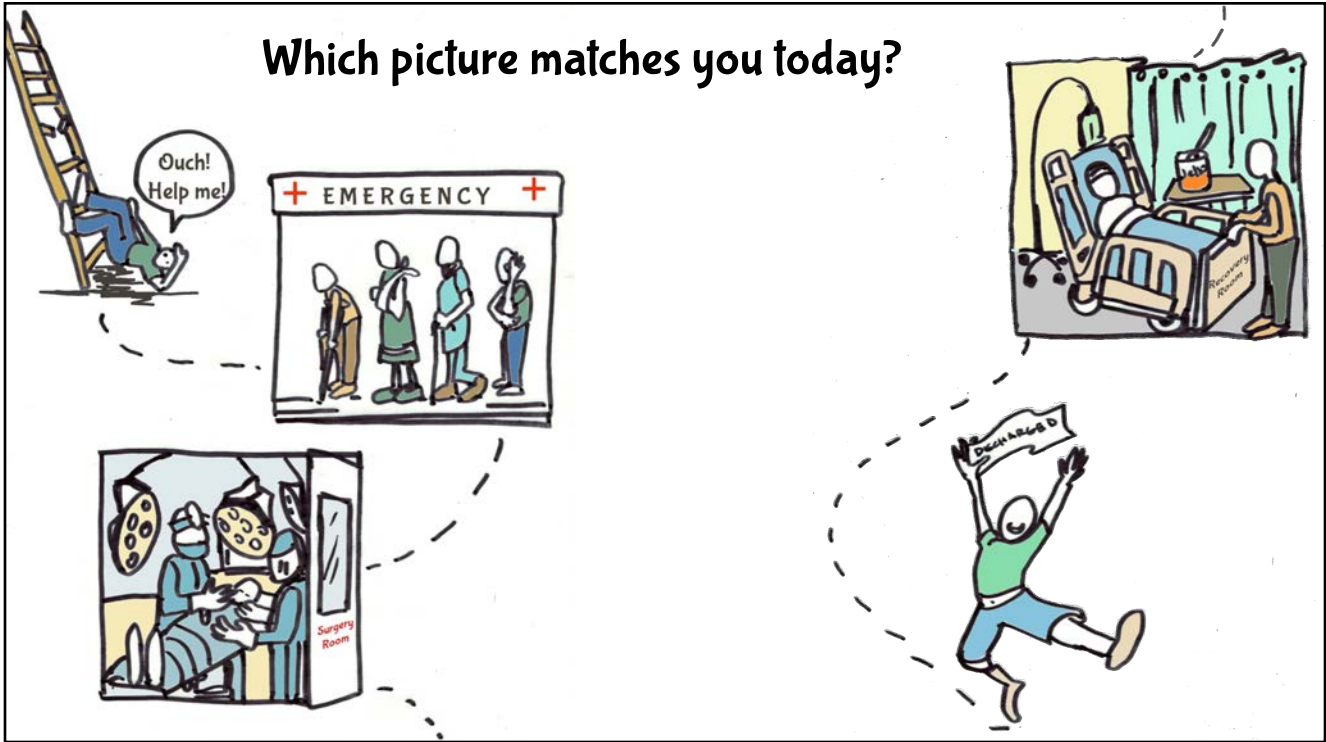
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35

Which picture matches you today?
God's design: You are welcome here!!

- And you are called and empowered to be **transformed**
- To give **praise** to God in Christ!

36



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