

Set Free!

Luke 13:10-21

Transformation Machines



Jesus' introduction as the Messiah

Luke 4:18-21

The problem of a fruitless tree

The problem of a fruitless people that claims to follow God

Luke 13:6-9

What does a fruitless people of God look like?

What might a fruitful people of God look like?

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: Jesus: the Sabbath is for releasing people from bondage

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!

Jesus' work: release people from the power of Satan

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

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

So what does a fruitful tree look like?

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!

The Big Idea: Jesus taught...

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

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

The poor experience good

The prisoners experience forgiveness & freedom

The blind see

The oppressed experience deliverance & freedom

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!

The poor experience good

The prisoners experience forgiveness & freedom

The blind see

The oppressed experience deliverance & freedom

Jesus' view of church:

goes to those in need / welcomes everyone / brings healing & transformation to all / rejoices in Christ!

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

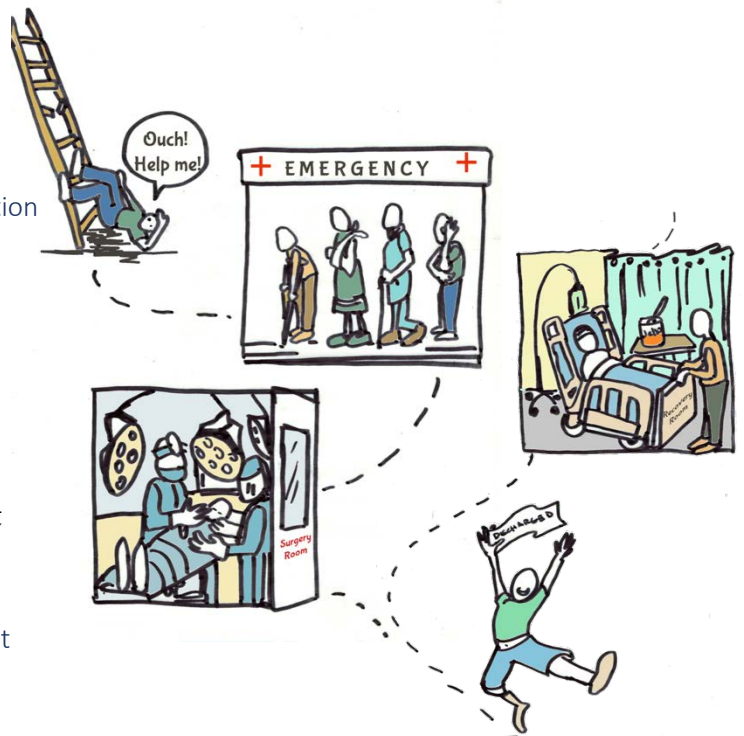
Welcoming and transforming the peoples of many nations to be united in the praise of God in Christ

"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, the powerless and the sinners, and Jesus will build His church



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

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

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

"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

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

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

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

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. In your experience of the church, which part or parts of the hospital model are most prominent? Which part or parts are less evident?
2. In terms of welcoming us all as we really are, which temptation is more challenging for you: to hide who you really are, or to judge others who seem like they need more help than we claim we need? Why might that be?
3. In terms of the transforming work of the church, how might you be tempted to confuse patience with low expectations?
4. In terms of the church, what stirs your heart to give praise to God in Christ?