

August 21,2022

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 13:10-17

This is a beautiful story of a long overdue healing. This event brings a tremendous shift in people's thinking. Yet if you look hard at the center of the story you find God's mercy. God shows us how His mercy flows through Jesus. This story sets a high example for those of us who call ourselves Christians!

God's mercy flows first and foremost by taking action in the situation. Not sitting by and watching things happen. Those people in the story who did this felt very justified for doing nothing. Their religious laws told them to do just that. Which is what the temple officials did in this situation. However, Jesus takes action by speaking some healing words. In Luke's gospel there at least eight stories where Jesus heals only with a word. Remember the Centurions who said," Only speak the word and let my servant be healed." Jesus even raises the dead on two separate occasions in Luke's gospel. Pretty powerful stuff, but would you expect anything less from the Son of God.

After telling the woman to straighten up, Jesus then puts His hands on her. Remember that it was the hand of God which freed the Jews from slavery in Egypt. Now it is Jesus's hand that is freeing this daughter of Abraham from eighteen years of physical illness. Do you see the comparison being made here? God's healing hand to free the Jews and Jesus's hand to heal this Jewish lady.

As Christians and followers of Jesus, we too are called to let God's mercy work through us. Do not underestimate the power of a comforting word to heal. Words are very powerful and create healing realities. Be aware of the words you use in daily life. Choose the words that will heal and allow God's mercy to flow through you. Remember that God created all of this with words.

We have a healing service in one of our many books. Where those present place their hands on the sick person. All the time while healing prayers are being said aloud. Jesus is the One who set the example for us and we are still using it today. That is how powerful these stories of healing have been for us over the centuries. They follow the same example Jesus set of healing word and healing touch.

We are all called to be that flowing mercy in our world. Some would say that Balm in Gilead. As Christians we just need to let go and let God work with us and through us. To let go and let Jesus. Those words are easy to say but very hard to actually do. The word and touch are very powerful to heal. Be careful and aware of the words you use. This

method of healing is still being used by Christians today. Jesus set a great example for us in this morning's story.

There are also times when we need to realize that the rules are just guidelines. That people are more important than rules. Jesus still healed this woman on the Sabbath. In this situation she was more important than the rules. Please stop at stop signs! Actually the Jewish laws about Sabbath do not even talk about healing on the Sabbath. So really Jesus was not doing anything wrong. Yet the Temple officials who were wrong said Jesus broke their man made rule. We know how this turns out. Jesus heals her anyway. Maybe that is why Jesus called them hypocrites.

Take aways from this sermon. Let God's mercy flow through you. You have the power to heal with a word and a touch. Size up the situation you find yourself in. People are more important than rules. Yet rules are important too. Try to help and do good where ever you are. It takes action to do all this. Do not be a watcher like the temple officials. This is easy to say but hard to do. Trust in God to guide and direct you! God bless and let me know how this goes for you if you decide to take this up? Good Luck, Pastor D