

Notes for the word section week beginning Sunday 25th October

Encounter Jesus: the Crippled Woman

Read: Luke 13:10-17

Summary:

This week we looked at another Encounter that happened with Jesus in the book of Luke:

The time, the place, the woman

The Sabbath was considered a holy day following the example of God who created for 6 days and not on the seventh; was one of the 10 commandments and then 'protected' by lots of rules and regulations by the Jews. However Jesus is often in conflict with the authorities because he is compassionate and active towards people on the Sabbath. This event is the last recorded in Luke's gospel that takes place in the synagogue as the authorities are becoming increasingly hostile to his teaching and ways. The woman who has suffered for years is following God but would have been deemed an outsider.

Jesus: Action Man – Man of Action

Jesus does not wait for the lady to approach Him, He saw her, called her, spoke to her and laid hands on her without having to be asked! Despite having suffered for years, having endured unimaginable hostility and rejection this woman is instantly healed!

What are you looking at?

The Rule of the Synagogue is indignant. He does not doubt the miracle but does not praise God, instead he complains to the people about why it was done on the particular day. Tragically this negative attitude infects others and Jesus labels them hypocrites.

Jesus was moved by compassion for the woman and did not want to allow her suffering to continue one day longer. He sees her as a precious child of God and he wants to see the Kingdom advance NOW

No sitting on the fence!

This shocking encounter ends with 2 very clear and distinct results: some are shamed because in their pride they are disappointed God has not kept their rules and done things His own way. Others rejoice at the glorious words and actions of Jesus!

Application:

Please select from the following questions and do not attempt to answer them all. Encourage all to take pray, to be honest and make room to pray for each other.

1. What did God say to you on Sunday and what do you need to do as a result?
2. In what ways are you 'shocked' or 'surprised' by the way God works?
3. Are you naturally a very task or relational person? How does this affect your Christian life?
4. How do you maintain your faith for the 'immediacy of God' whilst also recognising that His timing is not ours and some things take years?
5. Living in an image obsessed world how can we avoid judging people by appearance?
6. In what ways do you think you are brought low / bent over in life? Pray for Jesus to set one another free.
7. What is your approach to Sunday as a holy day, dedicated to God? How has this change over the year?