

JESUS HEALS A MAN ON THE SABBATH Luke 14:1-6

Introduction:

1. 'If What We Think Does Not Reflect Truth, Then What We Feel Does Not Reflect Reality' (Neil Anderson)

2. Loosing Proper Focus causes many problems...

- a. It Can Cause us to loose our Sense of Perspective, or Sense of Proportion
- b. And Causes us to Make Mountains out of Mole Hills
- c. To Major in minors and Minor in Majors
- d. To Strain at a gnat — but swallow a camel

3. EXAMPLE: We Loose Our Peace when we loose our focus (Isaiah 26:3)

You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

- a. Jesus Is Trying to Wake People Up—So They Can See Properly!
- b. Don't Focus on the Splinter in your brothers eye when you have a plank in your own
- c. **The Pharisees Focus Was Spiritually Distorted—Disproportionate to Reality...**
—because they Focused on Themselves Rather than on God

A Proper Spiritual Focus is on God, Rather than Ourselves

I. THE MIRACLE

A. THE INVITATION: Jesus Invited by a Ruler of Pharisees (v.1-2)

1. THE INVITATION: Jesus is Invited to the House of a Ruler of the Pharisees

And We Wonder: Is this Invitation Sincere? or a Trap?

- a) Every social or religious gathering has a matrix of inter-personal interplay
- b) Some are there because they want to be, some because they have to be
- c) Some Come to see others, Others to be seen
- d) And Everyone has mental, emotional Layers...
- e) Layers that protect us from embarrassment, or hurt feelings, or to project power...
- f) But these Layers also prevent us from true connection and relationship

2. THE SCRUTINY (v.1) They're Watching Jesus Closely...

—If This is a Trap, it Would Not Be the First—or the Last!

- a) Is This Suffering Man Invited to See if Jesus Will Heal on the Sabbath?
- b) This was the Sabbath and Jesus Had Already Healed Many on the Sabbath...
- c) Only Jesus and these Pharisees know the true motives of this invitation
- d) **ALL EYES ARE ON JESUS** "They were watching him." A Greek Scholar states the Greek word used for watching means: "*interested and sinister espionage.*" (Barclay)

3. THE MOTIVE: Jesus Always Desires to Help and to Teach...

Because Love Always Wants What is Best For Others!

- a) "Jesus never refused any man's invitation to hospitality...
and He never abandoned hope of men." (Barclay)
- b) But the Pharisees are watching and waiting to see what Jesus will do

B. THE QUESTION: Jesus asks a Legal Question (v.3)

- 1. Jesus Knew Their Hearts—He Knew What they were Thinking**
 - a) So He Brings it Out in the Open—this is the question on their minds
- 2. Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath?**
 - a) If they said YES, they would have no case
 - b) If they said, NO, they would be wrong...
- 3. The Law Never Condemned an act of mercy to help, even on Sabbath!**
 - a) Remember the two greatest commandments:
 - To Love the Lord w/ all your heart, soul and mind
 - and to love your neighbor as yourself
- 4. Jesus Healed People on the Sabbath Day...**
 - a) The healing of Simon's wife's mother (Luke 4:38)
 - b) The healing of the man with the withered hand (Luke 6:6)
 - c) The healing of the woman crippled eighteen years (Luke 13:14)
 - d) The healing of the paralytic at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:9)
 - e) The healing of the man born blind (John 9:14)
 - f) The healing of the demon possessed man in synagogue at Capernaum (Mark 1:21)
 - g) The healing of the man with dropsy, as recorded here
- 5. But They Wouldn't Answer—they Remains Silent!**

C. THE MIRACLE: Jesus Heals This Suffering Man (v.4)

DROPSY medical condition of fluid retention in body causing abnormal swelling.

Not only is it uncomfortable, but dangerous. Like Fluid around Heart and Filling the Lungs

- 1. Jesus Just Heals This Man In Front of Everyone!**
 - a) No Dramatic Show, no big performance while everyone watches...
 - b) No Boasting Like Men Would Do to Draw Attention to Themselves
 - c) No Ask Your Doctor... No Take this Pill... No You Might be better in 2-3 weeks...
- 2. Jesus Just Instantly and Perfectly Changed This Man's Life!**
 - a) I Wish I Could've Been There — To See the Look on their Faces!
 - b) To See the Astonished Look on the Man's Face that was Healed!
- 3. Did Jesus Just Do That? Just Heal This Man on the Sabbath?**

Is He Allowed to Do That?

NOTICE: I Like How Jesus Healed Him and Sent Him Away (v.4)

- a) Go Enjoy Your New Chance! You Don't Have to Be Used as a Pawn Anymore
- b) You Got Pulled Into This But I'll Deal With Them, Go Enjoy Time w/ Your Family!

D. THE POINT: Jesus Gives a Point of Perspective (v.5–6)

- 1. First They Didn't Want to Answer (v.4) Now They're Unable to Answer! (v.6)**

WHY? *“Because They Didn't Want to Admit that they valued their law and their property more than they valued a man. But their attitude spoke louder than their words.”* (Herschel Hobbs)

- 2. NOTICE: “Jesus did not condemn this act of mercy (to animals); but He did condemn their attitude toward men.”** (Hobbs; cited by Coffman p.307)

II. THE IMPLICATIONS

You'd Be Surprised the Depth of Spiritual Issues Jesus' miracle addresses

A. AN ISSUE OF SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY:

1. The Scribes and Pharisees Cared More About Their Own Authority than about God's Authority...

- a) Many Times They Tried to Trap Jesus by catching Him healing on the Sabbath
- b) But Healing or Helping Someone on the Sabbath Was Never Against God's Law!
- c) It Only Violated the Man-made Laws of the Scribes and Pharisees

2. They Created a Day of Work Just to Keep the Day of Rest!

- a) They Created so many man-made laws and restrictions...
that they became stricter than God Himself!

3. They Cared More About Their Own Laws Than They Did About God's Law

- a) Same Mistake Still Happens Today—>Not Intended to OFFEND but INFORM
Doctrinally, Denominationally, Congregationally and even Individually...

- (1) Doctrinally with Jews it Looked like:

- CHART—God's Word – Jewish Talmud/Mishna

- (2) Denominationally it can look like this:

- CHART: God's Word — Pope/Vatican

- CHART: God's Word — Book of Mormon / Doctrine & Covenants

- CHART: God's Word — Pentecostal Modern Revelation

- (3) Congregationally

- CHART: God's Word—My Private Interpretation (commentary, opinion)

- (4) Individually: CHART: God's Word — My Man-Made "Good Person" Laws

4. Paul was a Former Pharisee—So He Knew This Problem!

- a) and He loved His Jewish Brethren!
- b) He Wanted them to Know the Truth because only the Truth can set you Free!
- c) But They Were Not Free—they were enslaved to spending the rest of their life in a form of Self-Righteousness that brings bondage instead of freedom! (**Rom 10:1-3**)

5. The Pharisee was not free—and neither are we—unless we know the truth

B. AN ISSUE OF SPIRITUAL PRIORITIES

1. When Jesus asked them if it was lawful to heal a man on the Sabbath, they wouldn't answer...

- a) So Jesus Healed the Man and Then Made His Point...
- b) Which of You Having an Animal Fall into a Pit on the Sabbath, would not Immediately pull him out?
- c) Would You Say, Just wait in that pit for another 24 hours, I'll pull you out on Monday

2. In Other Words, You Care More For Your Animal Than for a Human Being!

- a) Jesus Describes the Myopia of these religious rulers (**Matt 23:23-24**)
- b) They strained out a gnat but would swallow a camel...

3. They Had Lost All Sense of Spiritual Proportion Because they Cared More About What Men Thought—than What God Thinks

- a) They Looked Good on the Outside—
- b) but were full of Greed & Self-Indulgence on the inside

4. Do We Have Spiritual Myopia somewhere in our Life?

- a) **EXAMPLE:** Our Kitchen Faucet was leaking & we needed to buy a new one...

- (1) Went on Amazon to read reviews... According to Some Reviews, This Kitchen Faucet Ruined their Life! Ever since they bought that particular faucet their life went off the rails and there is no hope in their life!
- (2) But Other Amazon Reviews—that faucet was the greatest thing that ever happened to them—thier life has meaning and purpose now bc kitchen faucet

- b) **Seriously? Sometimes We Major in the Minors and Minor in the Majors!**

and This Can Happen Spiritually When Our Focus in in Wrong Place

- (1) Am I More Concerned with my (My Kitchen Faucet) _____Fill in the Blank:
Then My Brothers and Sisters in Christ?
- (2) Do I Let a Mole Hill Become a Mountain that Destroys a Friendship?
- (3) Do I Strain at a Gnat and then Swallow a Camel?
- (4) Do I Split the Congregation over the color of the Carpet?

C. AN ISSUE OF SPIRITUAL MOTIVE

1. The Central Motive of the Pharisees was Selfish Pride...

The Central Motive of Jesus was Love

- a) FIRST They Refused to Answer — then the COULDN'T Answer! —WHY?

—They Didn't Want to Admit that they valued their Animal more than a Man

—They didn't Want to Admit they Valued their laws more than God's law

—They Didn't Want to Admit they Care More About Themselves than about God

But Their Attitude Spoke Louder than their Words

2. But Even Jesus Rebuke Was One Out of Love for Them as Well!

CONCLUSION:

1. Don't Let This Happen To You....

- Don't Confuse Your Authority with God's Authority
- Don't Confuse Your Priorities for God's Priorities
- Don't Confuse Your Motives with God's Motives

"While our Lord rebuked the wrong attitude and temper of these men, He did so by appealing to the best within them and calling them to be true to it. His purpose is not that of shaming men, but that of saving them." (Morgan)

2. A Proper Spiritual Focus in On God—NOT on Ourselves

- On God's Word—Over Our Opinions
- On God's Plan of Salvation—Over Our Own "Good Person" Plan
- On God's Righteousness—Over Our Own Self-Righteousness

3. Only the TRUTH can Set You Free!

Free from fear, free from anxiety, free from the lies of enemy, from false doctrines, false teachers, false security, free from Guilt and Condemnation of Sin

IF We ABIDE in His Word! (John 8:31)