

“Transformed Healing” Luke 13:10-21

Context: Luke’s account of Christ’s foundational teaching during His journey toward redemption includes a series of calls that gave the nation of Israel an important and last chance to repent before great calamity. An exhortation to interpret the time, a plea to settle with God as judge, a last chance to bear fruit, and later in the chapter Christ’s great lament over His rejection in Jerusalem frame our study for today. The healing and parables are intended to uncover the beginnings and growth of the Kingdom. For those ‘God lovers’ with wobbly faith, this section continues to fulfill Luke’s purpose of bringing stability by revealing how God grows His Kingdom even though it is unseen by a careless glance (cf. Luke 1:3-4).

Where’s hope: Hope is found in a powerful God who is mighty to heal from the inside out (cf. Luke 13:21).

1. Healing as spiritual and physical (Luke 13:10-17)

Luke recounts Jesus’ healing of a woman one Sabbath as a sign of the continued breaking in of God’s Kingdom. The woman’s release, first from her spirit of frailty causing the infirmity and then from her physical illness, serves as a living symbol that connects healing from the inside out. The woman’s restoration on the Sabbath points to the ultimate Sabbath restoration, a rest and restoration for the whole creation. The healed woman’s and crowd’s praise of God stand in stark contrast to the synagogue leaders’ disdain for Him. This contrast evinces the difference between those who experience Kingdom release and those who remain bound to their own judgmental spirits.

2. Healing as Kingdom change (Luke 13:18-21)

The Kingdom embodied in Jesus, like a mustard seed and its bush, was soon to be released by death and life. The subtle power and transformation, like leaven in bread, transforms from the inside out first in the unseen spirit and then in the body. The two parables, then, teach in story what had just been seen in the healed woman and the praise of the crowds.

For Further Study:

- The Sabbath has a complex of ideas attached to it. As a **Bible study method**, look up Sabbath in *Vine’s Expository NT Dictionary* (<http://vines.mike-obrien.net/>). What is the basic idea behind the Sabbath? What ceased in the woman’s life? From what did Jesus loose her in verse 12? How was the spiritual and physical release of the woman from her malady a sign of the breaking in of the Kingdom (cf. Luke 4:16ff; Heb. 4:4-11)? What sign has been or is present in your life that reveals the breaking in of the Kingdom?
- Luke 13:18-21 gives account of two parables that emphasize the spreading of the Kingdom and its subtle transforming power. Use the method found in [Interpretation of Parables](#) under our website Bible Study Resource page on parables. What is the central theme of these two parables? How is the act of Jesus like the leaven and the mustard seed? How does the change in the healed woman and leavened bread stand for the change that occurs when the Kingdom breaks in? How does God’s effective will (His Kingdom) ‘leaven’ your spiritual, emotional, and physical life?
- The parables of Luke 13:18-21 reveal the ever-growing transforming power of God working in His Kingdom. Our **doctrinal statement ‘On Salvation’** under **what we believe** describes this transformation in terms of the “power of the indwelling Spirit” (cf. footnote 13-16 at <http://www.gracepointfellowship.org/files/DocStmnt.pdf>). Describe how the Holy Spirit works to spread the Kingdom like leaven in you and in the Church.

Transformation exercise:

Reflect on Luke 13:12-13. How does your spirit respond to ongoing infirmities and physical healing? Do you seek only physical release through the ‘medical’ kingdom (cf. James 5:14-14)? Who is praised when healing occurs? Selah!