

**Sermon Notes of
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on August 21, 2022:**

**"Sabbath Healing
(Luke 13:10-17)"**

[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman, at church in the Y shows us, that when Jesus healed on the Sabbath, He not only showed us that He is our ultimate rest in God but that He is also our source of self-improvement.]

Introduction:

- Is God good ALL the time? How many of us believe the answer is, "Yes"? A show of hands indicates that all of us here do.
- So, we're going to take that statement and apply it to today's passage where Jesus was criticized for healing on the Sabbath.
- Now Pastor Craig asked, in a joking manner, "If all of us can answer 3 questions correctly, we'll stop the sermon and go home."

- "Is God good ALL the time?" was the first question. (One down and 2 to go.)
- Second question: "Does ALL physical and spiritual healing come from God?"
- A show of hands indicates that all of us here answer yes.

- Third question: "Is there ANY authority, law (or day) that prevents God from being good?"
- Now, there's a challenge on the table, because brother Robin says that in Capernaum, Jesus could not carry out His works, because of the unbelief there.
- Pastor Craig believes that the people's lack of faith didn't prevent Jesus from doing good works, but rather Jesus made a choice and chose to respond to their lack of faith by not doing His good works there that He had done elsewhere.

- So, since there was a challenge on question 3, we're going to move on to the sermon.

Luke 13:10 (NASB), Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.

- The context of Luke here is that Jesus is traveling to Jerusalem, with His disciples and followers, and stopping at various places along the way.
- And on this particular Sabbath, Jesus taught in one of the synagogues.

11) And there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness (or infirmity) caused by a spirit; and she was bent over double, and could not straighten up at all.

- This lady suffered for 18 years with this problem, which was atypical.

12) When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your sickness."

- Now, scholars believe that at the time of Jesus, women were allowed to worship in the synagogue with men.

- Interestingly, the lady didn't come up to Jesus and request healing. But rather, Jesus called her to come to Him.

13) And He laid His hands on her;

- Now, there was no magic about laying hands on someone, it was just a practice from the Old Testament.
- So, we need to understand that someone can be healed without the laying on of hands.
- This was just a descriptive not prescriptive example here.
- Sometimes, just putting your hand on someone's shoulder can give them comfort and convey your relationship with them. This is what Jesus did here.

13) And He laid His hands on her; and immediately she stood up straight again, and began glorifying God.

- Now, Jesus could have done this miracle at any time after services were over.
- But He did it during services, because He knew there were going to be some challenges there.
- We also need to notice that she began glorifying immediately.

14) But the synagogue leader, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, began saying to the crowd in response, "There are six days during which work should be done; so come during them and get healed, and not on the Sabbath day."

- The synagogue leader had the gall to challenge Jesus and tell Him He did wrong.
- So, he is implying that God refrained from doing good on the Sabbath.

15) But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites, does each of you on the Sabbath not untie (or unbind) his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it away to water it?"

- Jesus used a pretty strong word here calling them hypocrites.
- This statement is tying us to the fact that Jesus came to unbind those who are held captive.
- Jesus is saying that a healing on the Sabbath is no different than unbinding animals and leading them to water.

16) And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, should she not have been released from this restraint on the Sabbath day?"

- Now, what would the people be thinking when they heard that this lady was bent over double for 18 years? Sin.
- If she were doubled over or sick for 18 years, the Law told them that she must be a sinner and therefore cast away from God.
- But, what does Jesus say? She's a daughter of Abraham, meaning she belongs to God.

17) And as He said this, all His opponents were being humiliated;

- So, one thing we want to take away from this is that you never want to get into an argument with Jesus.
- Jesus is showing the religious leaders that God is above the law, because He created the law and His law of love and compassion has much more precedence than what think is in Deuteronomy.

17b) and the entire crowd was rejoicing over all the glorious things being done by Him.

- So, once again, healing is tied to praising God, glorifying God.
- In fact, this woman was a type of humanity, who needed to be straightened up and straightened out.

Concluding Comments:

- And, so that leads us to the question, “How many of us need to be ‘straightened out’?”
- Yes, you are correct in raising your hands, because we all need to be “straightened out.”
- It’s just a fact of life.
- Even though we are loved and included and embraced by God, who could never love us less, we’re still broken, we still have challenges. We still need to be straightened out.
- How many of us have purchased a book on self-improvement or self-help within the last year? Many hands went up.
- Pastor Craig then assured us that there’s nothing wrong in having these books.
- So, how many self-improvement or self-help books are published annually?
 - Answer: 85 million
- It seems that we have this inherent need to want to be straightened out, which is good.
- So, what do you think the 2022 projected annual sales of these types of books will be?
 - Answer: \$13.6 billion
- Now here’s an interesting statement: “94% of surveyed millennials indicated they would spend up to \$300 monthly on self-improvement.”
- \$300 is like an expensive car payment. The millennials are in their 30’s.
- Now, let’s contrast this with the annual sales of the Bible.
 - Answer: \$425 million, which is considerably less.
- Pastor Craig isn’t implying that the Bible is a book on self-help and self-improvement.
- But, any improvement, any help that we can get to transform and to change us doesn’t come from a book, but rather it comes from the Spirit, who can work through those words.
- Yes, the Holy Spirit can use those sources to improve us, but without the Holy Spirit improving us and transforming us, it’s not going to happen.
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- So, here is some excellent, some encouraging, some hopeful news for all of us here.
- We have the ultimate source for self-improvement and self-help and it’s found in Jesus, and that transformation comes through the Holy Spirit.
- And, so for all of those out there trying to find self-improvement and self-help, without the power of grace and without the power of the Holy Spirit, they’re going to climb a slippery slope, because they’re not going to find the true source.

- But the hope that we have is that we found the source and it's not at Barnes and Noble, it's not on line or on a podcast, although the Spirit can speak through those sources.
- Now, the real source can be found in scripture as John tells us that scripture leads us to Jesus, and He is the ultimate source of healing, self-help, self-improvement and our source for being straightened out.
- For those of us who want to be straightened out, here's some encouraging news: it's already, but not yet.
- It's kind of like salvation. We can say that we were straightened out on the cross in 33 AD.
- Yes, we were straightened out, once and for all, by Jesus on the cross by what He did for us.
- And then, we were straightened out when we came to that understanding of who we are!
- When the Holy Spirit removed the scales from our eyes and then we understood who we are.
- And, we can also say that we are in this process of being straightened out during this lifetime that we'll ultimately culminate in the future when we receive our ultimate straightening out.
- Now, not everybody has this understanding.
- And because we have that understanding, we see the world completely differently – so let's not take that for granted.
- Just imagine that if we were going through this life without the knowledge that we've been already straightened out and there's going to be a day coming that's been promised that we will experience eternal life.
- So, Jesus has given us the Sabbath, a day of rest.
- Now, we know that there were different kind of Sabbaths, there were Land Sabbaths and there was a 50 year Jubilee Sabbath, where all debts and obligations were forgiven.
- Now, we've been given that tremendous rest, because we know that the Old Testament Sabbaths were symbolisms or typologies of Jesus as our source of rest.
- We have that rest and it comes 7 days a week, not just one day.
- And, we've been given the source for all self-help and self-improvement.
- And, we don't have to go to the book store and spend another dime on this 13.6 billion dollar industry, because it's right here available to us.
- Now, that's Good News. So, who would not call that Good News?
- It's very encouraging Good News to Pastor Craig and should be to us, as well.

Closing Prayer:

Eternal loving Father, Son and Spirit: Dear Jesus, Lord of the Sabbath that you made for us, which is no longer required as a law for us to keep, but as a sign pointing to You and the true rest that You give us. That's the ultimate self-help, self-improvement and straightening out that we need as well as the rest and comfort in You that we need.

Father, we pray that each of us have an opportunity to participate with You in helping others realize that they're also straightened out even though they may not know that.

Father, please help us to realize that no matter what troubles we face, You took care of it at the beginning of two millennia ago. We thank You for that Father. And, we thank You that You are bringing us through a process of change and transformation. And we pray that You help us to yield to that.

Scripture is written a lot times about obedience and obedience implies a master-slave relationship. And, sometimes obedience can be a very damaging word. But, Father what I think You're asking us to do is simply to yield. And it's good to yield. We yield to You, because of all that You have done. And all the rules of life You have put in place, are there for our benefit.

Father, we pray for that wisdom and that yielding. And, Father, through this yielding to You and Your Spirit, we, too, are being straightened out. And, we thank You for that. And we thank You for never forgetting us, never leaving us, never forsaking us, but always with us every day, moment by moment, helping us, strengthening us to be straightened out.

Father, we look forward to the day when we will ultimately be straightened out with You as the source.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.