



## WEEKLY STUDY

### The Never Too Late Mindset - Week Four

We continue to contemplate the mindset of Jesus through Luke 12-14. Now we see another miracle performed by Jesus, and this time it's on the Sabbath. A woman had been suffering for 18 years, but continued to come to the synagogue. Jesus healed her of her condition, and in response she glorified God. But instead of celebrating a clear and obvious miracle, the ruler of the synagogue was focused on the rule that Jesus had just broken. Jesus wanted the suffering to end, and for God to be glorified. 18 years of waiting was long enough. Do you share in that mindset? As you read and pray through the passage this week, pay attention to suffering or separation that has become accepted as normal in the world around you. It is never too late for Jesus to come!

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

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## DAILY STUDY

### MONDAY: LUKE 13.10-17 (ESV)

*Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your disability."<sup>13</sup> And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God. <sup>14</sup> But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day."<sup>15</sup> Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it?"<sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be*

loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?"<sup>17</sup> As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame, and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

- She stood up, she glorified God. Standing up straight after a long (18 years!) illness. Maybe you know what this feels like. You think the suffering will never end, but then Jesus shows up. Are there physical, emotional, relational, or spiritual realities that have you feeling crippled? Whether or not the woman visited the synagogue religiously for 18 years, she was there that day, and Jesus saw her. Do you believe that Jesus sees your greatest need and pain? Write down the areas of brokenness that you want to place before Jesus today.

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- **Prayer Prompt: “Even now,” declares the LORD,  
“return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”**

**<sup>13</sup>Rend your heart  
and not your garments.  
Return to the LORD your God,  
for he is gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and abounding in love,  
and he relents from sending calamity. (Joel 2.12-13, NIV)**

- *God, I believe that you see me, even in my distress. I believe that you care about my needs. I return to you and your abounding love for me. Amen.*

## **TUESDAY: LUKE 13.10-17 (ESV)**

- *The woman in the synagogue in Luke 13, had gone to the place where every faithful person would go. Being there was what put her in the path of Jesus, her healer. Simple faithfulness puts you in the path of miracles. Things that seem routine or even rote can still lead you to a place of healing. It's why we gather weekly for worship. It's why we encourage Small Groups and Discipleship Groups for accountability to basic practices of the faith. What acts of faithfulness might God be calling you to today?*

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- **Prayer Prompt: neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8.38)**
- *Lord, give me contentment in the ordinary acts of faithfulness. Keep me awake to the possibility of encountering you. Amen.*

### WEDNESDAY: LUKE 13.10-17 (ESV)

- We have to wonder if, during her 18 years of suffering, the woman had witnessed other people receiving miracles. Had she seen evidence that her faithfulness in getting to the synagogue might lead to her own healing? Did she put that hope in her heart every time she made her way to worship? She was holding on to something that drove her to carry on and keep her eyes open. Admittedly, there is much about our world that leads us to want to close our eyes. It's all too much to bear sometimes. It can be tempting to close our eyes to it all, we would prefer to remain ignorant or numb to it. But as followers of Jesus, we believe that healing is possible. List some of the struggles that leave you squinting or looking away. Offer them up to Jesus with your eyes open!

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- **Prayer Prompt: I remain confident of this:  
I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living.**  
<sup>14</sup> **Wait for the LORD;  
be strong and take heart  
and wait for the LORD. (Psalm 27.13-14)**
- *God, this world is hard and can seem far from you. But I will wait for you with my eyes open. Amen.*

### THURSDAY: LUKE 13.10-17 (ESV)

- If you look ahead to [Luke 14.1-6](#), you will see a similar story of a man who is healed. The care of an ox is used as a rationale for the healing on the Sabbath just like it was in this week's passage. As you compare the two accounts, you might notice that there are significant differences. The first is that in Luke 13, it is a woman who is healed on the Sabbath. And second, is that she is referred to as a daughter of Abraham. She is a part of the story of salvation. God was saving her from 18 years of torment, and her infirmity was not her identity. She was a child of God! Are there people or people groups today that are identified by their condition instead of their humanity? What does it mean that Jesus not only saw the suffering, but saw this woman's true identity?

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- **Prayer Prompt: But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2.9)**
  - *Jesus, I long to hear you call my name. I know that I am your beloved child. Thank you for saving and claiming me. Amen.*

**FRIDAY: LUKE 13.10-17 (ESV)**

- As you re-read Luke 13.10-17, pay attention to the ruler of the synagogue. Is he simply the antagonist in the story, or is there hope for his own healing? What might healing look like for someone in his position? He has power and is striving to be righteous in the eyes of the Law. Can you imagine what a change of heart would look like for him after witnessing a miracle?
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- **Prayer Prompt: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36.26)**
- *God, forgive me for miracles I have missed because of my focus on being right. Give me a new heart towards your acts of healing and compassion. Amen.*

**SATURDAY: LUKE 13.10-17 (ESV)**

- Jesus’ healings happen in various ways. Sometimes his words are all it takes, sometimes there is a laying on of hands. Sometimes there is a delay. But here, the woman received immediate restoration. The healing was so sudden that she stood up straight and glorified God! It might sound strange to use the word sudden for a healing that was 18 years in the making. But once you cross paths with Jesus, anything is possible, and it’s never too late! When has God been “right on time” in your life?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Our Master, Jesus Christ, is on his way. He'll show up right on time, his arrival guaranteed by the Blessed and Undisputed Ruler, High King, High God. (1 Timothy 6.15, MSG)**
- *God, I can be very impatient, especially when I know what is possible. I yield to your timing and trust that your healing of this world will be right on time. Amen.*

## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Have you ever been late for an important meeting? What were the consequences? Did you suffer punishment or receive grace? Or both?
- We've all had invitations from God that went unnoticed or ignored. How might you become more aware of (or pay attention to) these invitations?
- What practices regularly put you in the presence of Jesus?
- Have you ever witnessed a miracle? Describe what happened. Is there a chance that you have missed some miracles?