

Reading Sunday 21st August 2022

Luke 13: 10-17

Jesus heals a Crippled Woman

This reading comes as part of a few chapters in Luke's gospel, which is concentrating on Jesus's teaching and healing. We are told he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath, when a woman appeared near him, and Jesus showed his love by healing her of her ailment. We aren't told that she asked him for healing, just that she was there – and I think there would have been many people there. This shows to me that Jesus is aware of our problems, even when we do not pray for help. What do you think ? Jesus calls her to him, and laid hands on her – he can see her suffering.

But of course, this is not the whole story. In Jewish law, no work should be carried out on the Sabbath – but Jesus healed the woman ! The leader of the synagogue tells the crowd that there are six days when you can come to the synagogue to be healed, but not on the sabbath. Jesus sounds angry as he rebukes them – I think it is interesting that Luke at this point uses the word 'Lord' not Jesus – what do you think ?

Luke reports that the Lord says if any of you needs to feed your animals on the Sabbath, you of course do – is it not as important to heal this woman, who has been suffering for eighteen years? We are told that the leaders were put to shame, and the whole crowd were rejoicing at the wonderful things Jesus was doing.

I think one of the messages from this reading is that as we pray to Jesus, we know he listens, but we sometimes we do not feel our prayers are answered, Here, Jesus is telling us that our prayers will be answered, maybe not when we want, and not exactly what we want, but when it is the right time. If we trust in God, he will always be there to support us.

With love and blessings Jill x