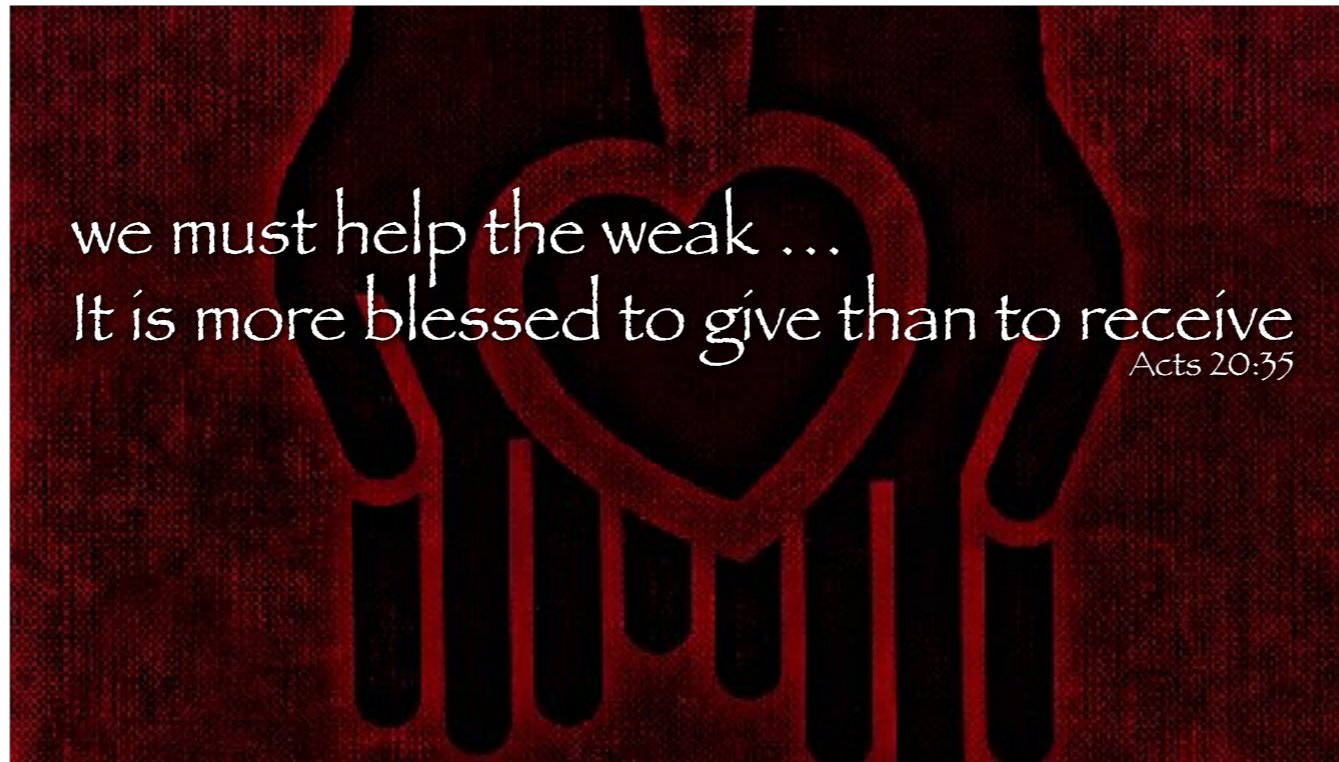
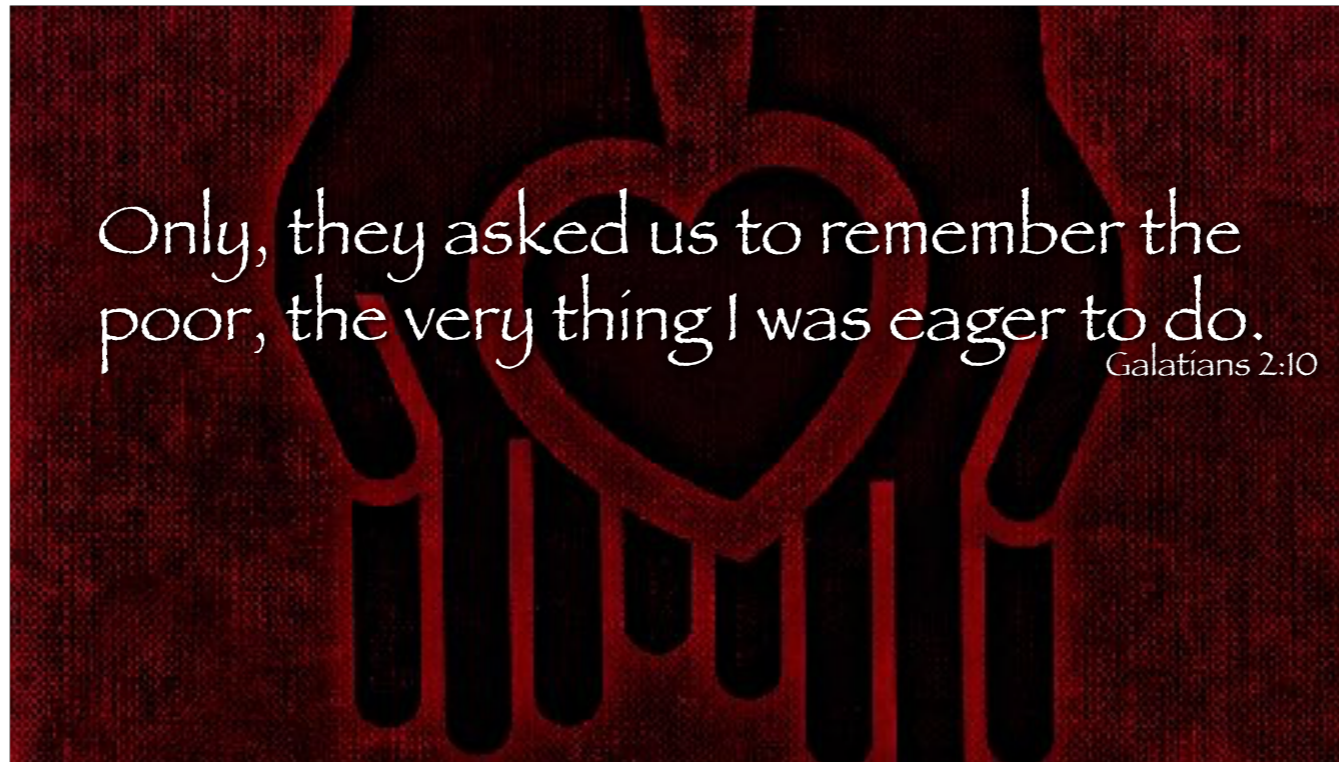




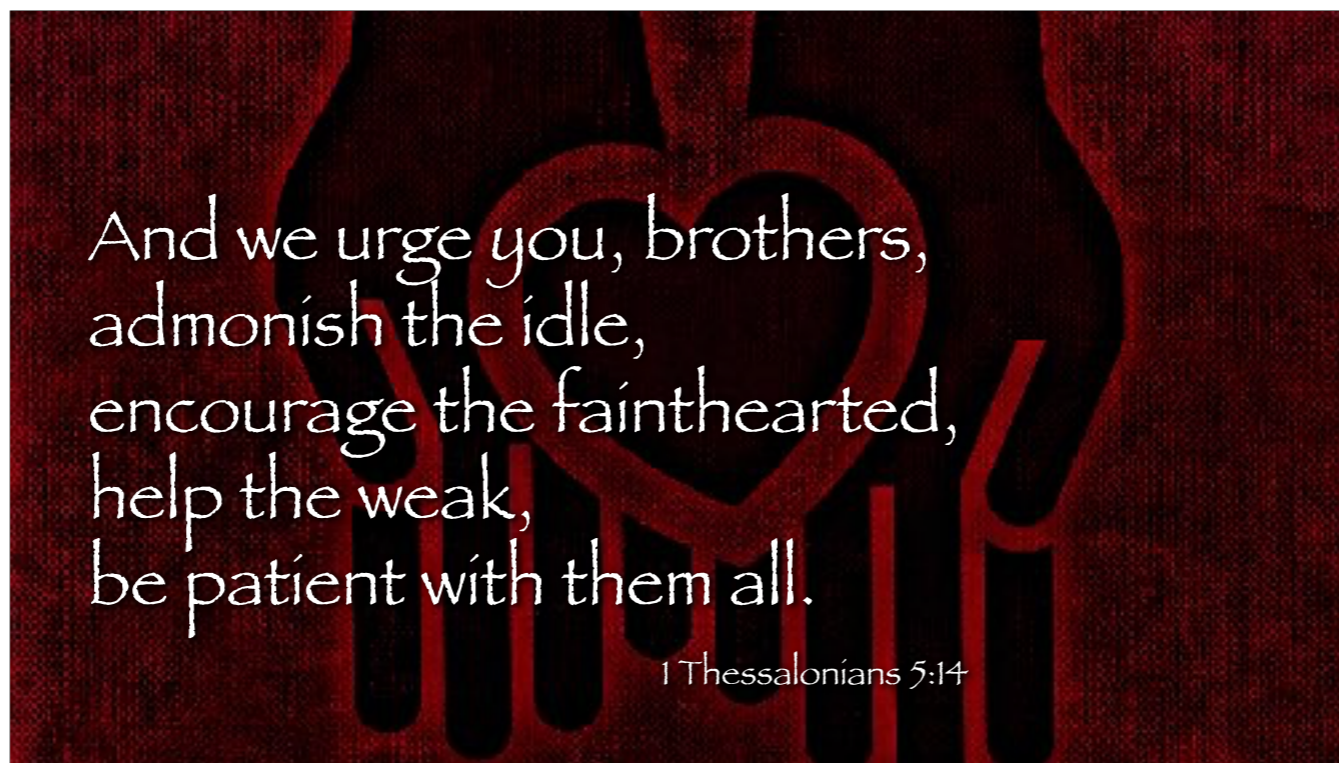
- Paul gives the elders in ephesus a lot of very important instruction
 - serving with humility, tears, trials
 - declaring and teaching, public and house to house
 - repentance and faith
 - declaring whole counsel of God
 - Pay attention to yourselves and the flock
 - Fierce wolves — be alert
 - commend you to God and word of his grace: build you up
- Acts 20:35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"



- Acts 20:35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'



- Galatians 2:10 (ESV) 10 Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.



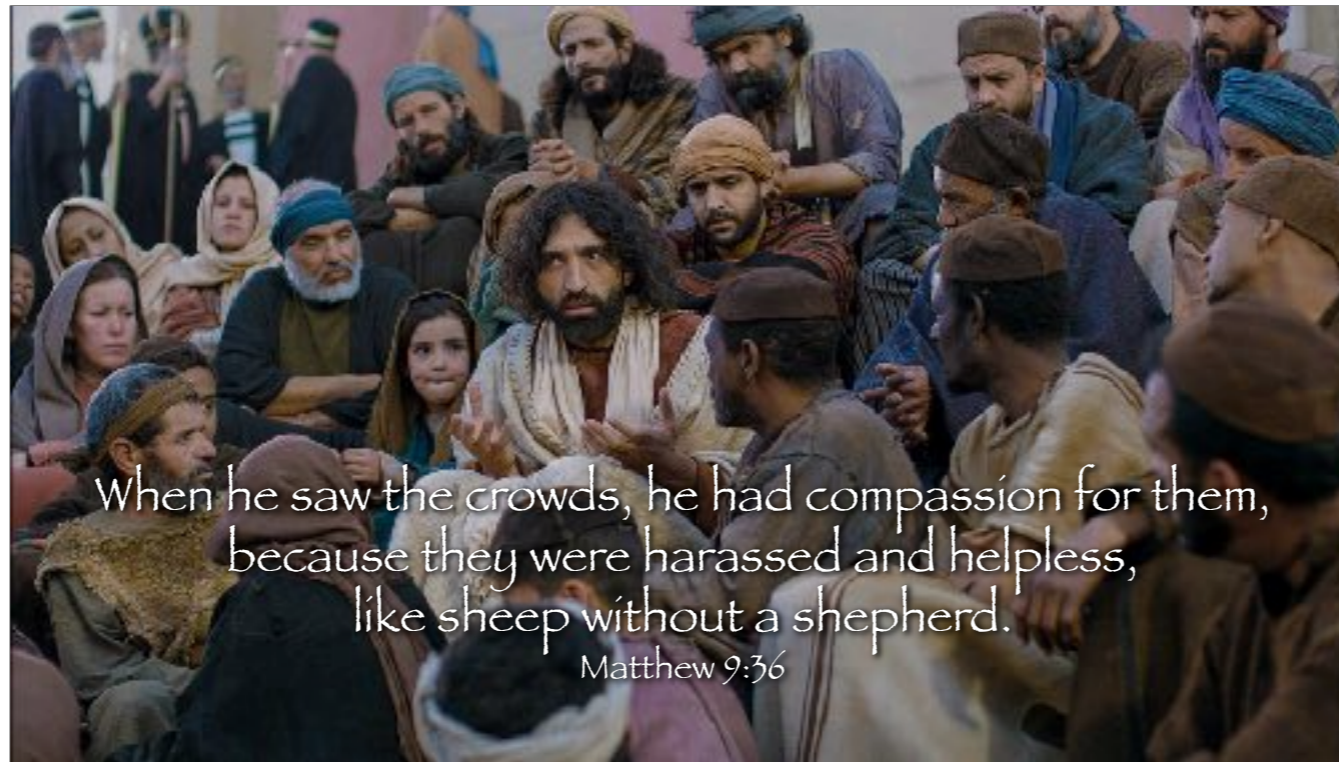
- 1 Thessalonians 5:14 (ESV) 14 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.



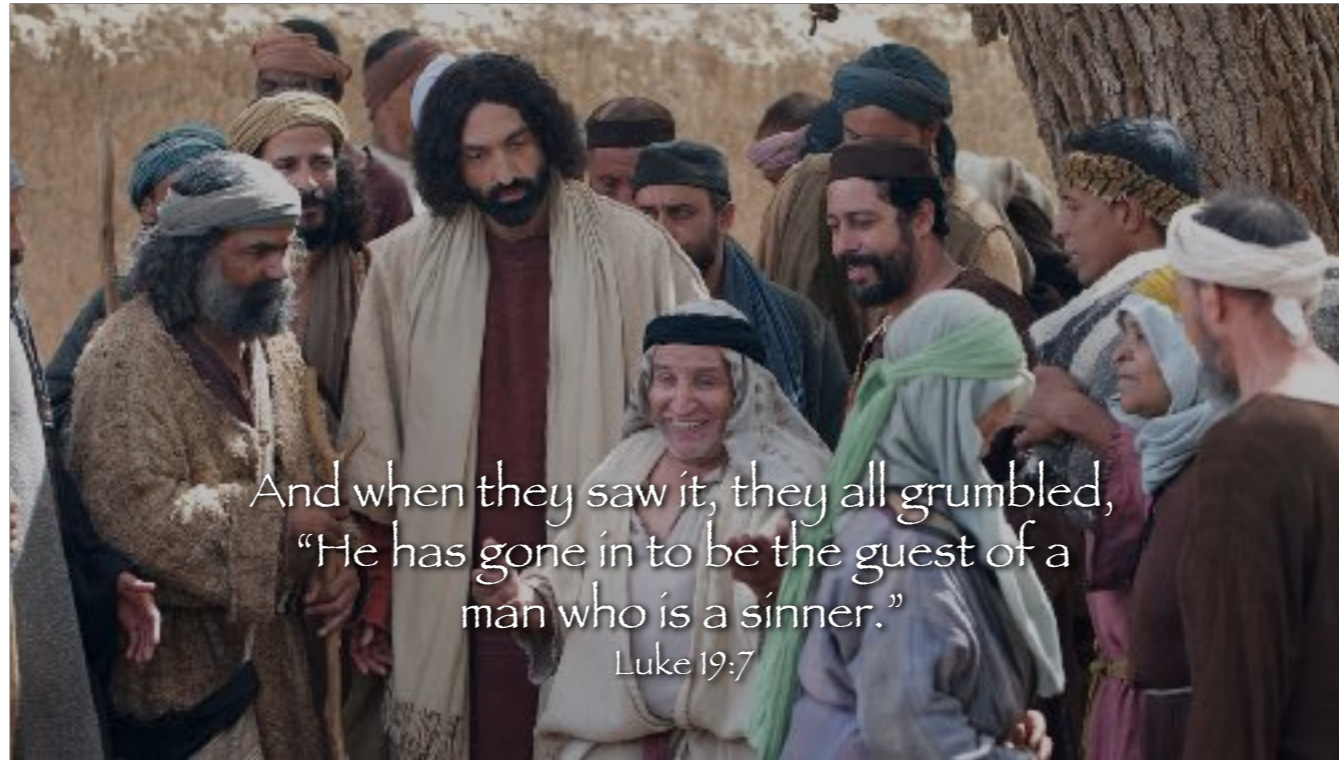
- Spiritually



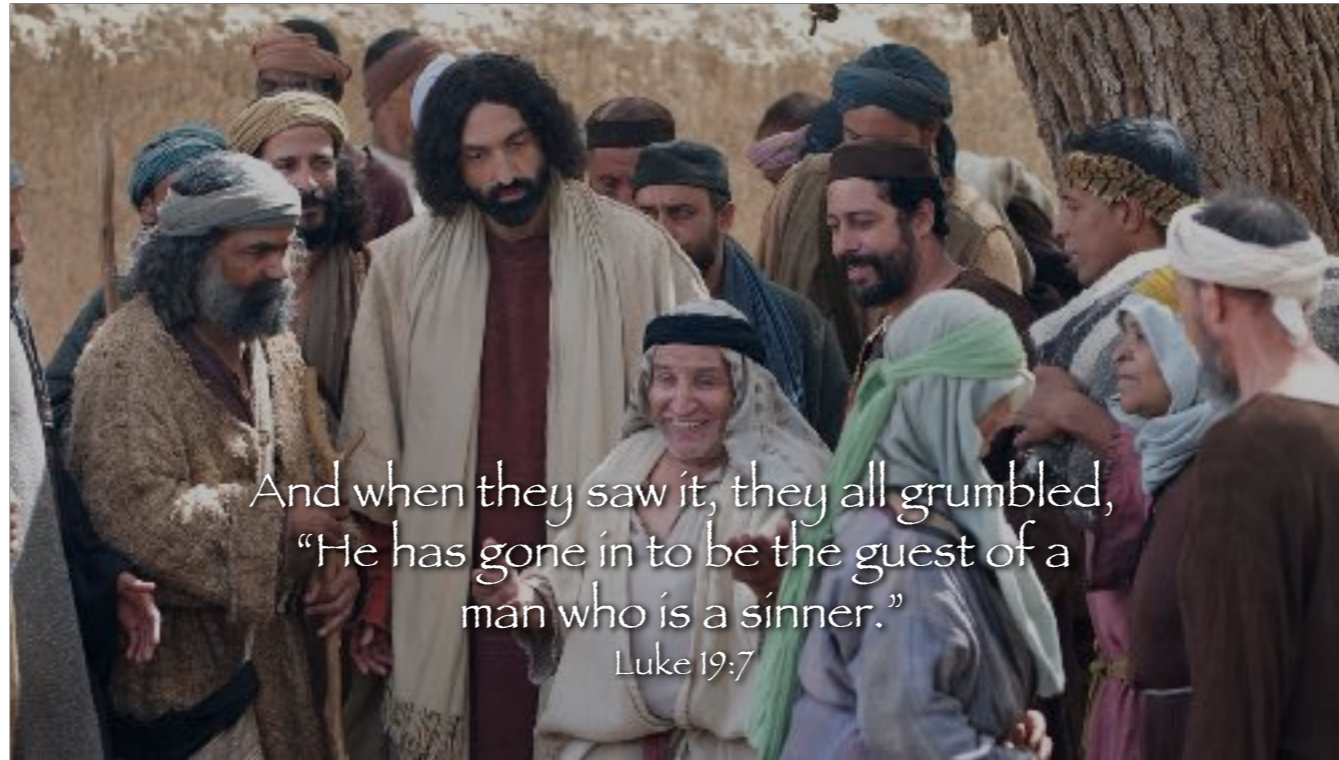
- Matthew 11:4-6 (ESV) 4 And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. 6 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”



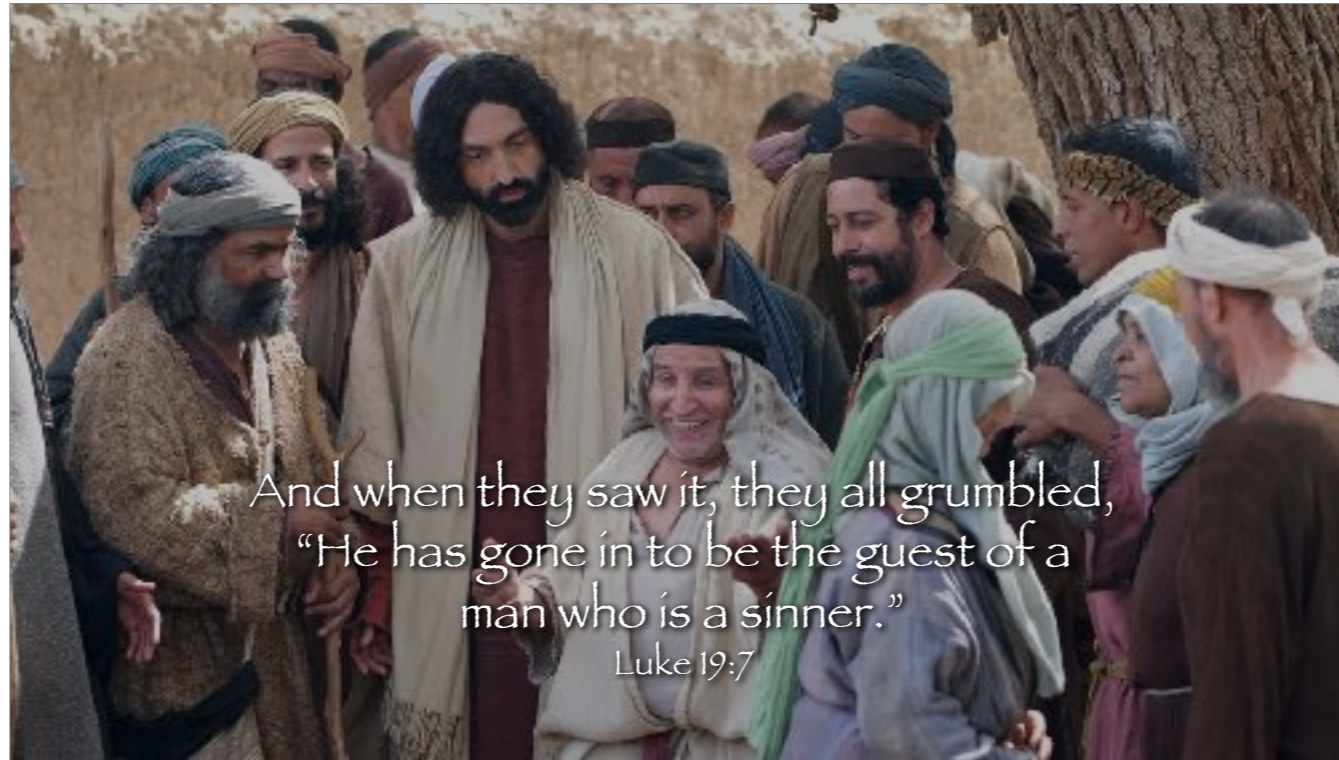
- Matthew 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.



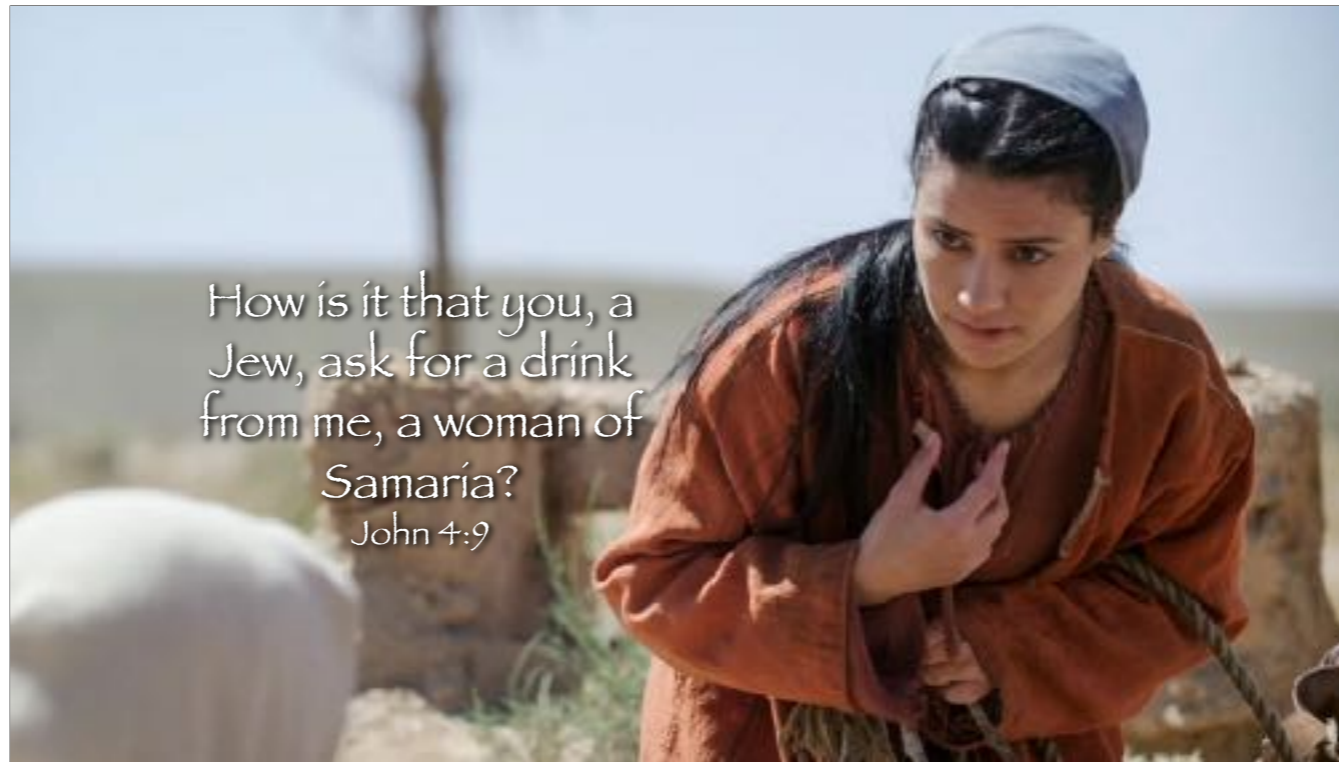
- Luke 19:1-10 (ESV) 1 He entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3 And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. 4 So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” 6 So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. 7 And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” 8 And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” 9 And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”



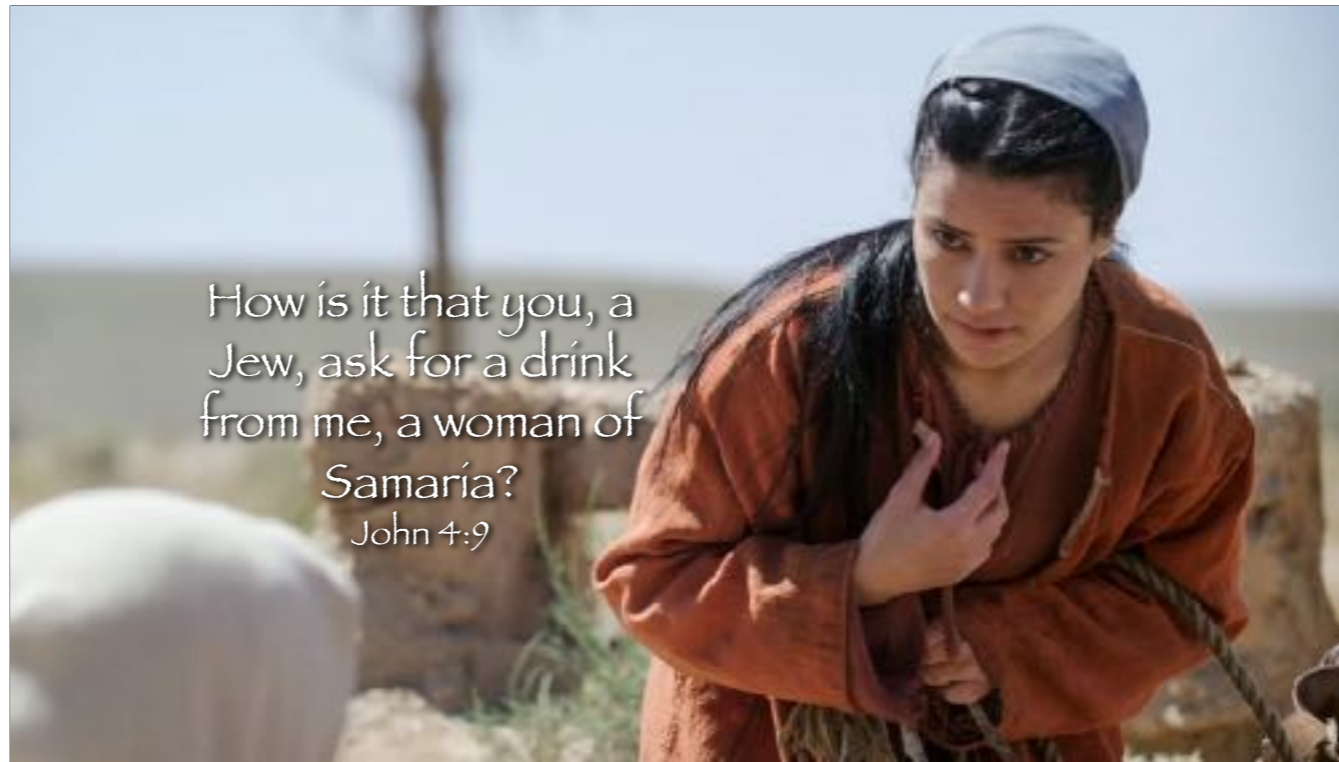
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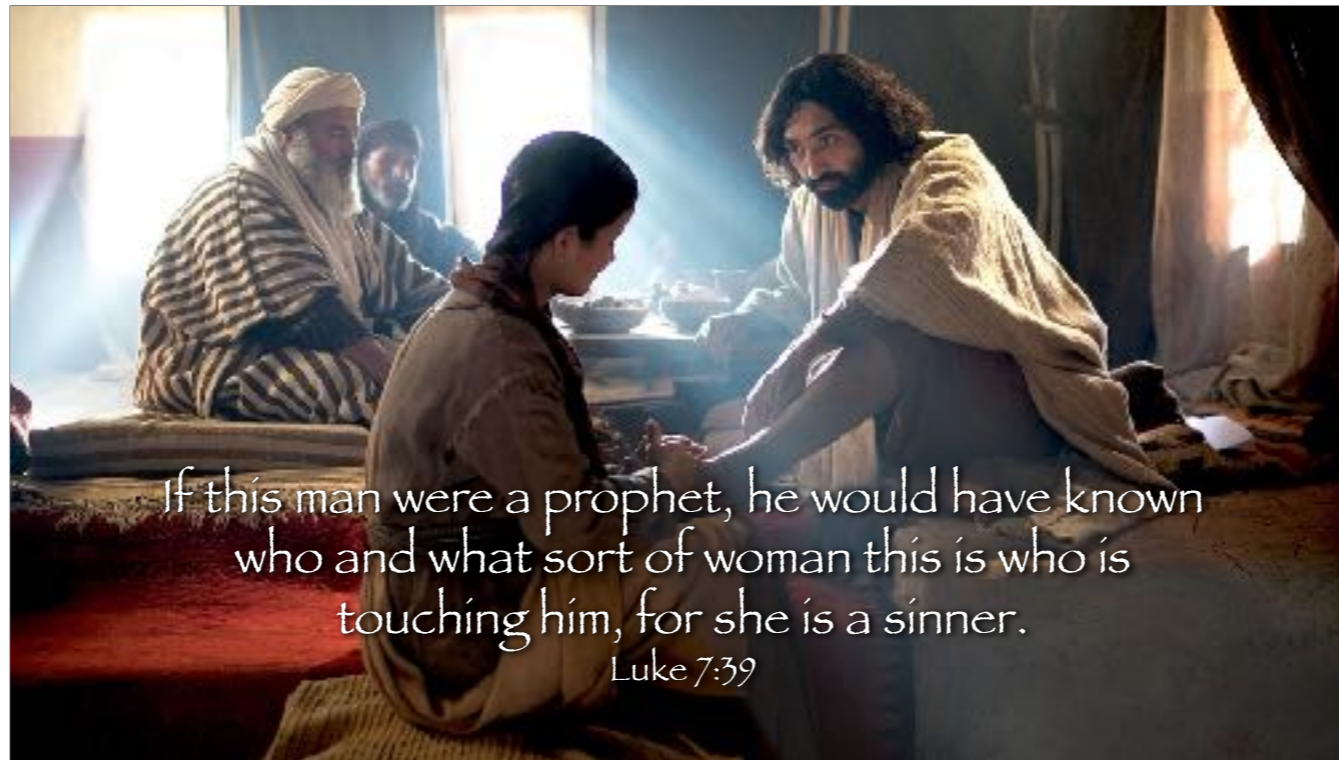
- This gives us a glimpse into the attitude of many towards who should or should not be taught.
 - A man who they know is a bad man wants to talk with Jesus ... and they grumble!
 - They could have rejoiced that Jesus was talking to him
 - Of all people, wouldn't Jesus have the best chance of helping this man?
- But their attitude was that this man wasn't worth talking to, wasn't worth helping: he was hopelessly lost?
- Do I do this? Instead of compassion for the lost like Jesus? Do I choose to grumble against them?



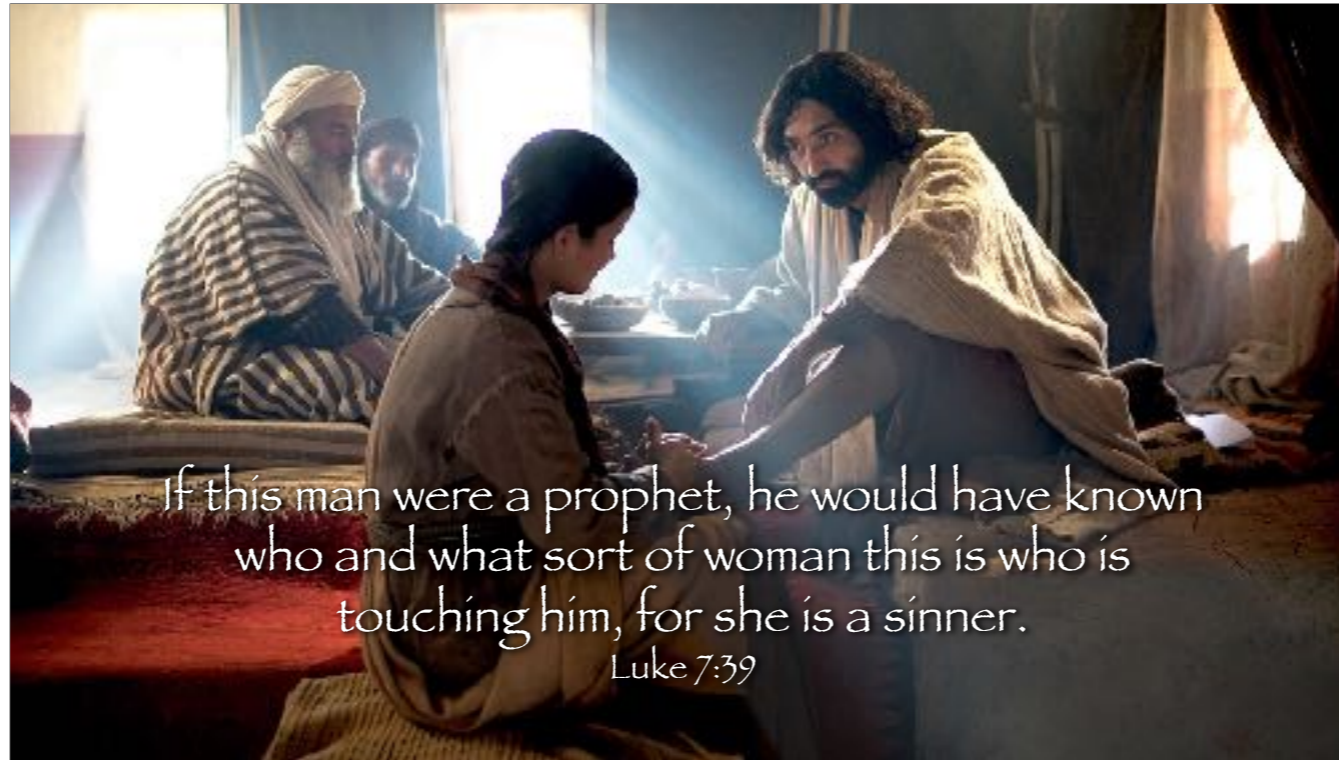
- John 4:9-10 (ESV) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”
- John 4:16-18 (ESV) 16 Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” 17 The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.”



- In talking to the Samaritan woman, Jesus surprised even her.
 - She is Samaritan
 - She is a woman
 - Jesus knew about her many prior husbands and living with a man outside of marriage.
- But he talked to her ...
 - offered her living water!



- Luke 7:36-50 (ESV) 36 One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. 37 And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, 38 and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." 40 And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher." 41 "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" 43 Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." 44 Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." 48 And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49 Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" 50 And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

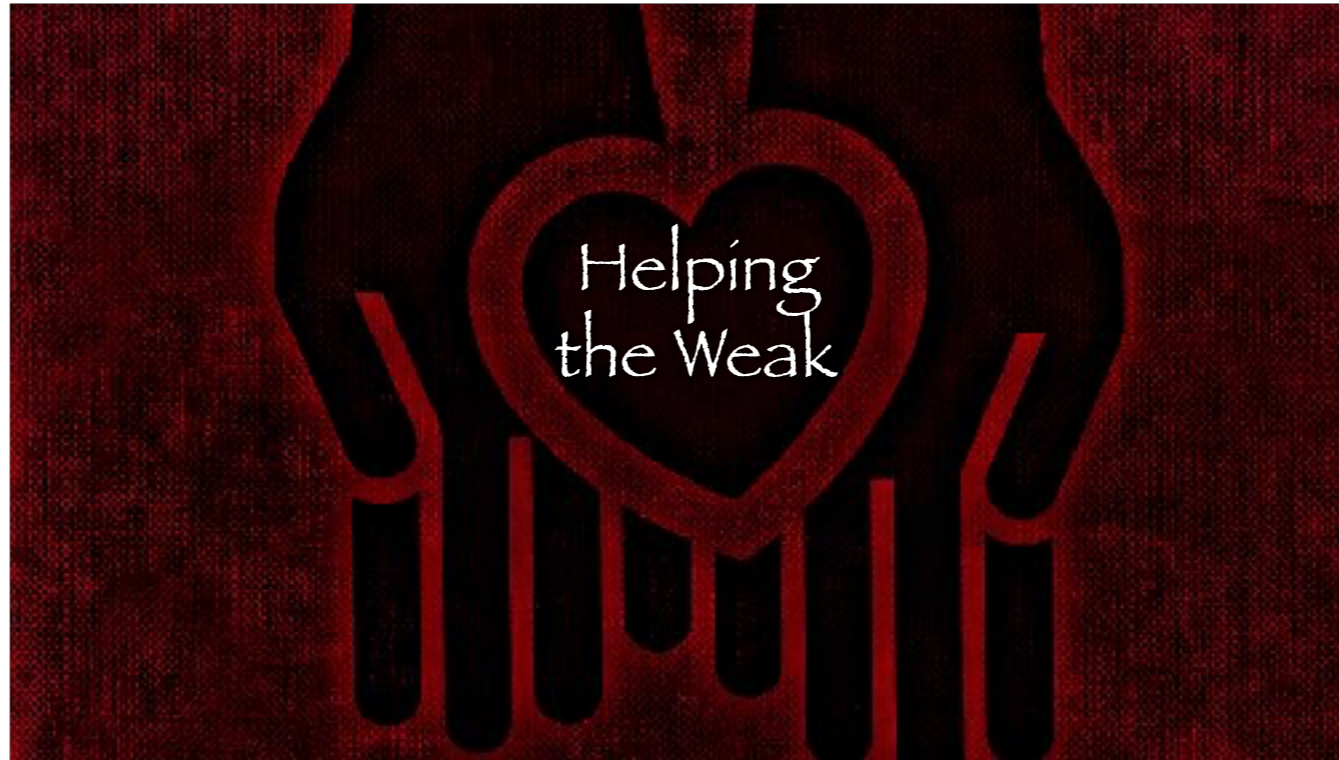


If this man were a prophet, he would have known
who and what sort of woman this is who is
touching him, for she is a sinner.
Luke 7:39

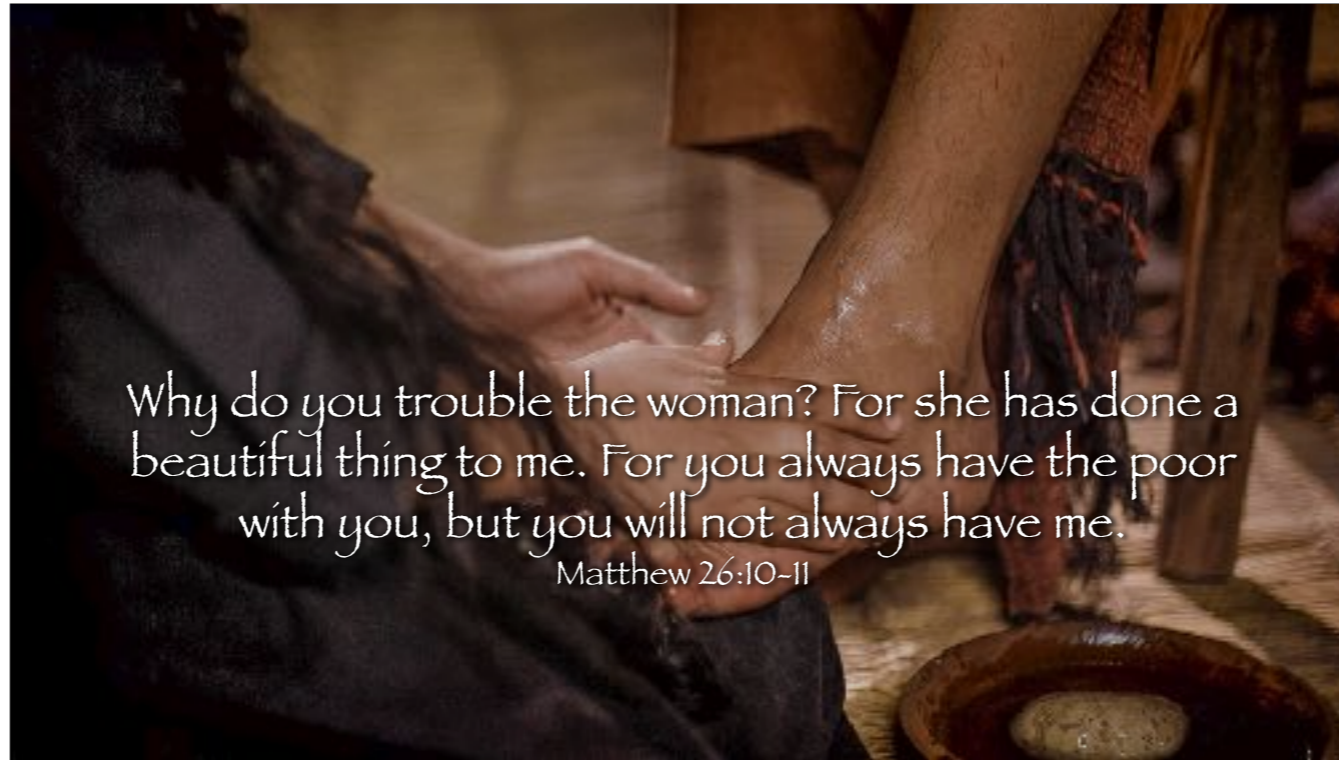
- What did Simon see in this woman? Sinner.
 - She should not have been touching Jesus
 - If Simon noticed anything about her ... it was that she wasn't all that she was supposed to be.



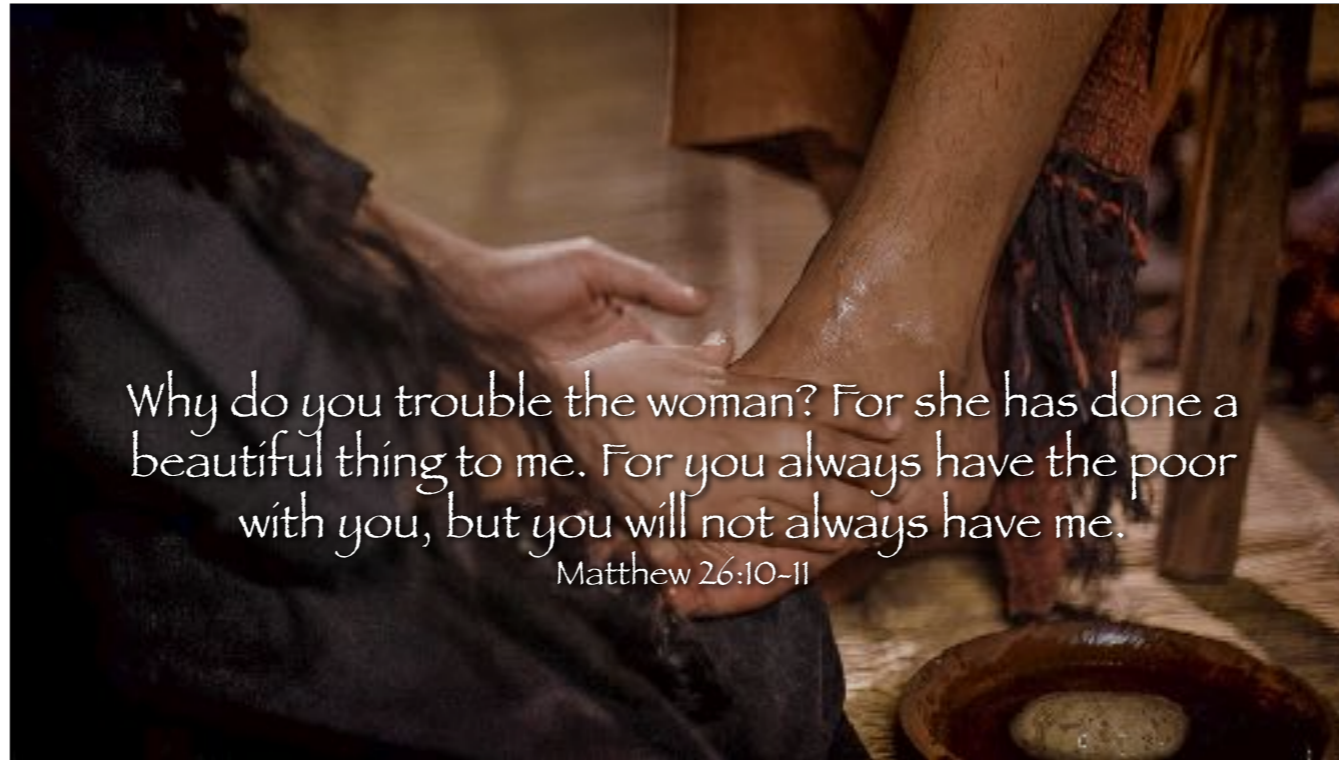
- John 8:10-11 (ESV) 10 Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."
- Although caught in adultery Jesus didn't come to condemn. He came to save.



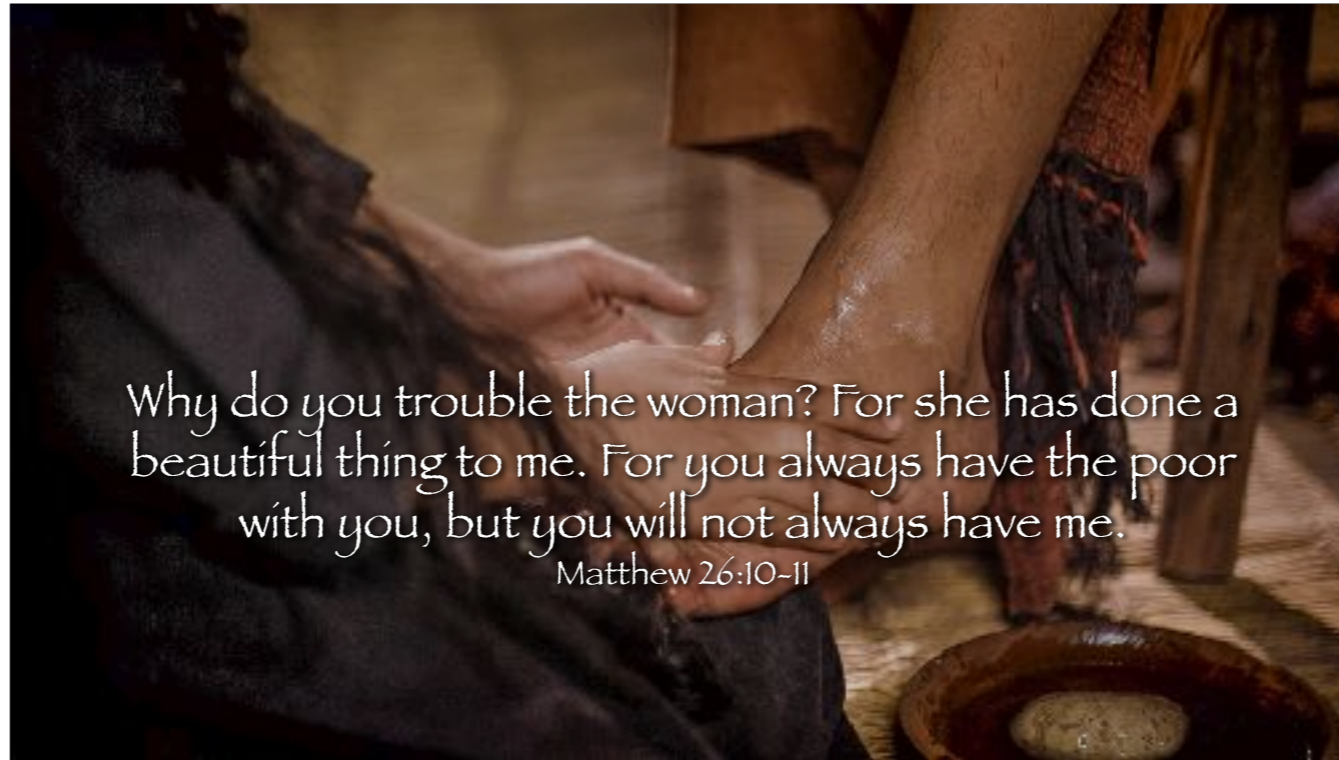
- Spiritually
 - Jesus taught those who needed his teaching the most
 - Self-righteous pharisees and Jews
 - Sinners, weak, hurting
 - Who should I be teaching?
- But there's more ...
 - Physically Jesus helped the weak too



- Matthew 26:6-13 (ESV) 6 Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, 7 a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. 8 And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? 9 For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor." 10 But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. 11 For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. 12 In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. 13 Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."



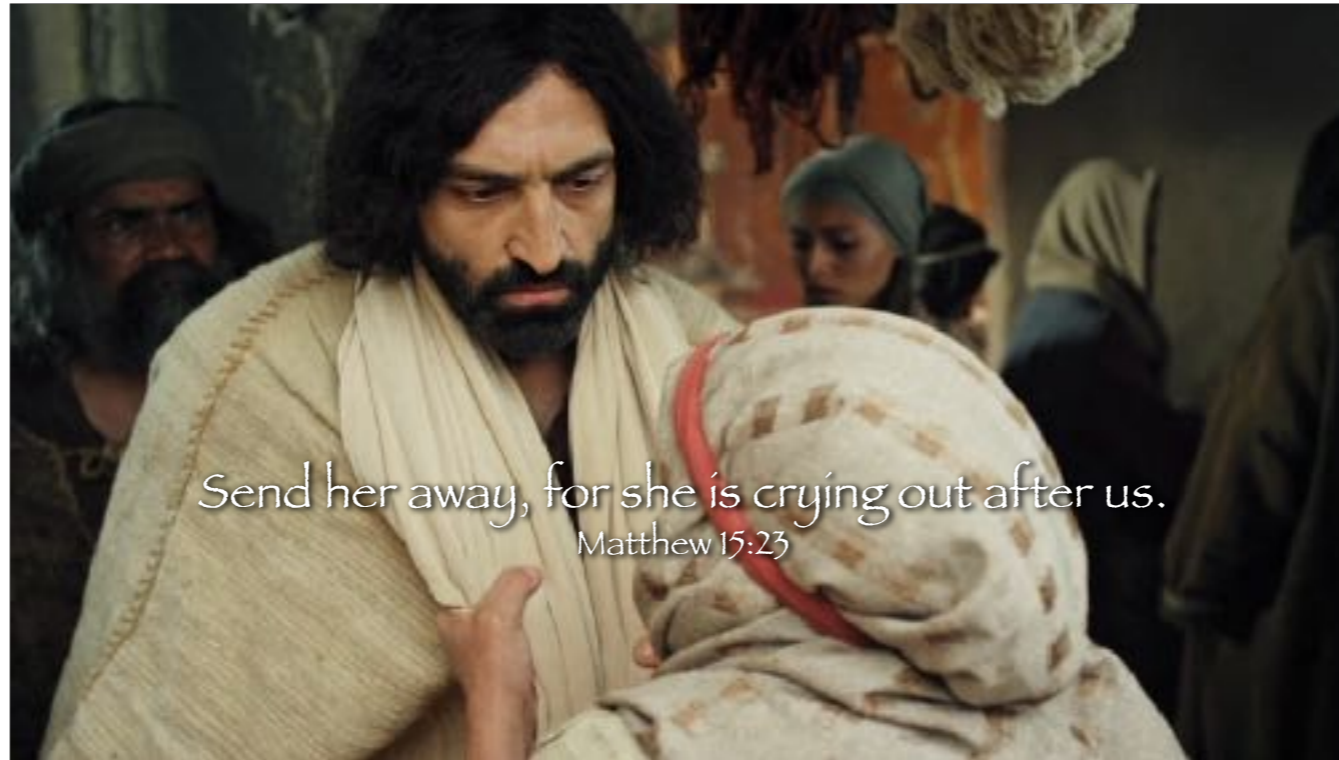
- “you always have the poor with you”
 - This is not a reason to ignore the poor, rather it’s a reminder that we’ll always have an opportunity to help the poor.



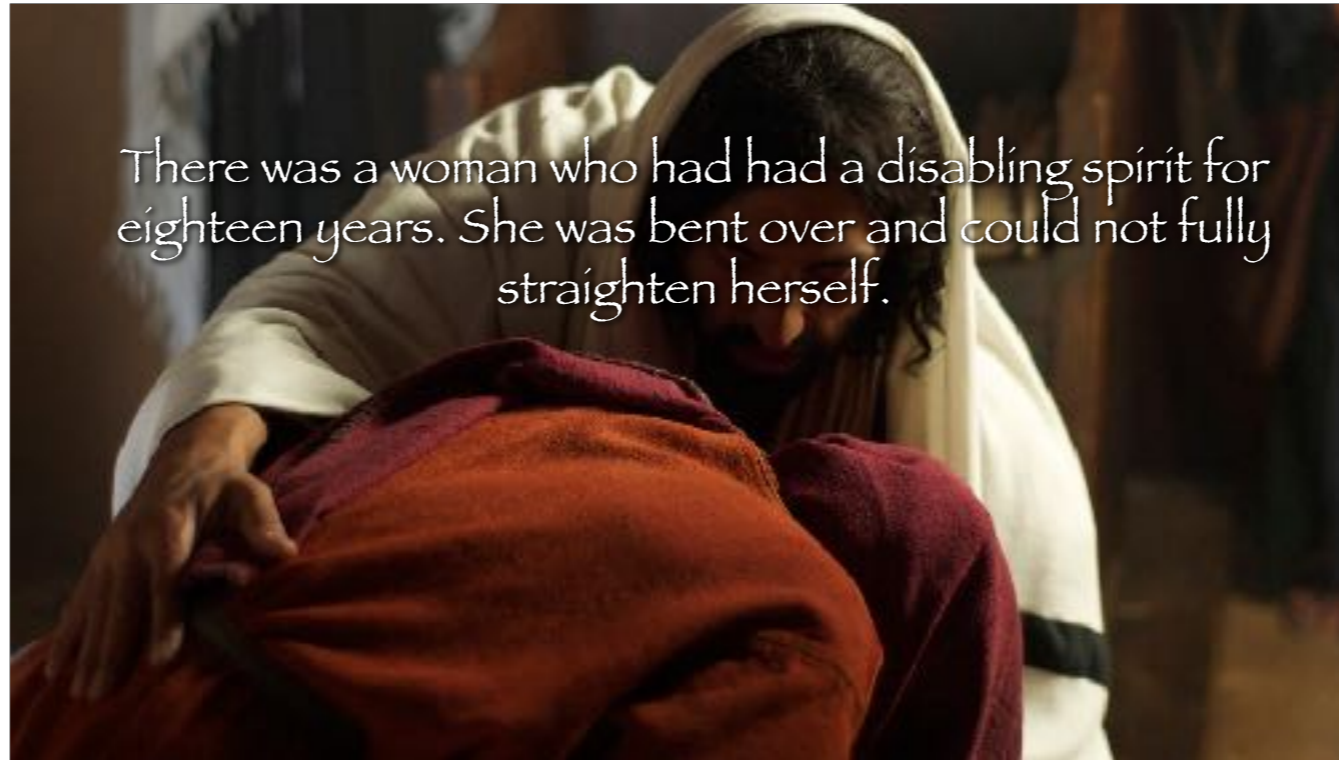
- Were the disciples concerned about the poor?
 - John 12:4-7 (ESV) 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, 5 “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” 6 He said this, **not because he cared about the poor**, but **because he was a thief**, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.
 - Powerful warning
 - What keeps you from helping the poor?
 - Is it because you don’t care?
 - Do you act like you care, but don’t actually do anything?



- Matthew 15:21-28 (ESV) 21 And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." 23 But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." 24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, "**Lord, help me.**" 26 And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." 27 She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." 28 Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

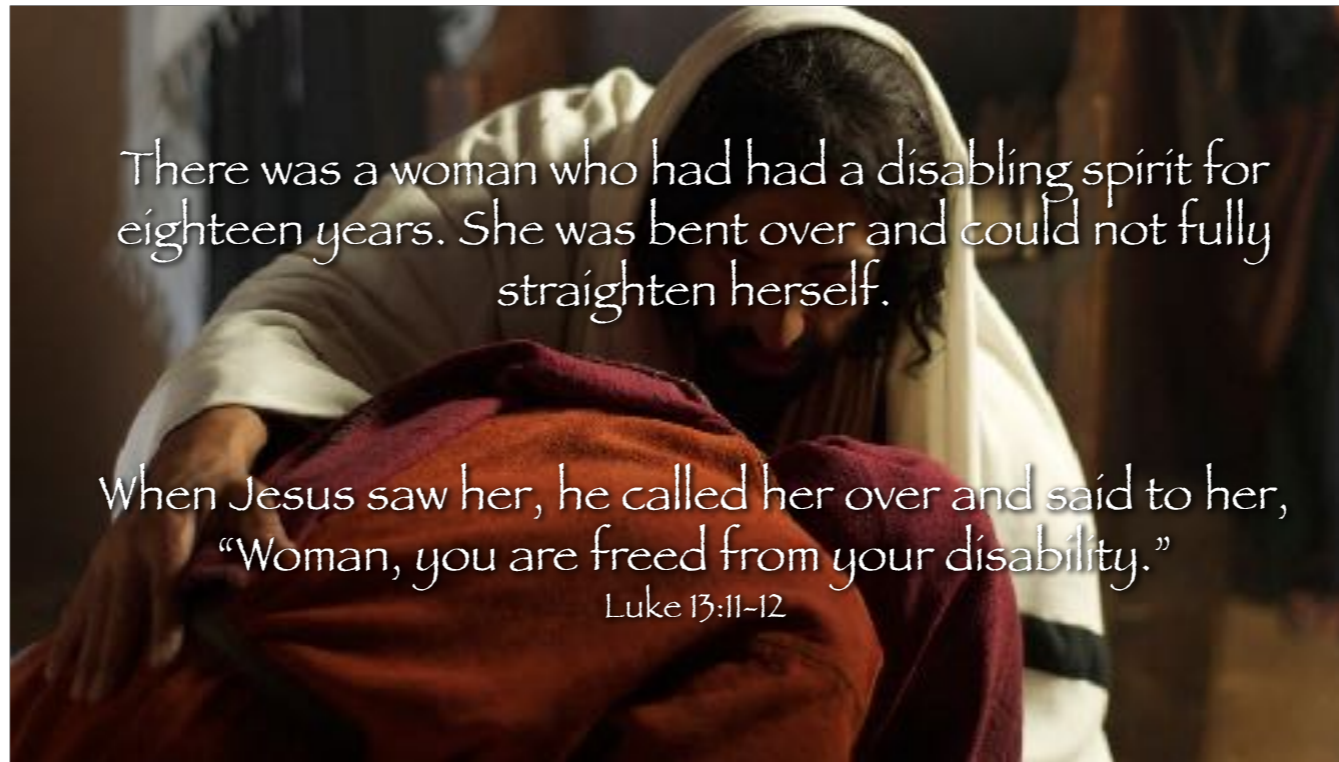


- Am I too impatient with those who need help?
- Even Jesus stayed focused on his purpose ... but eventually helped because of her faith.



There was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself.

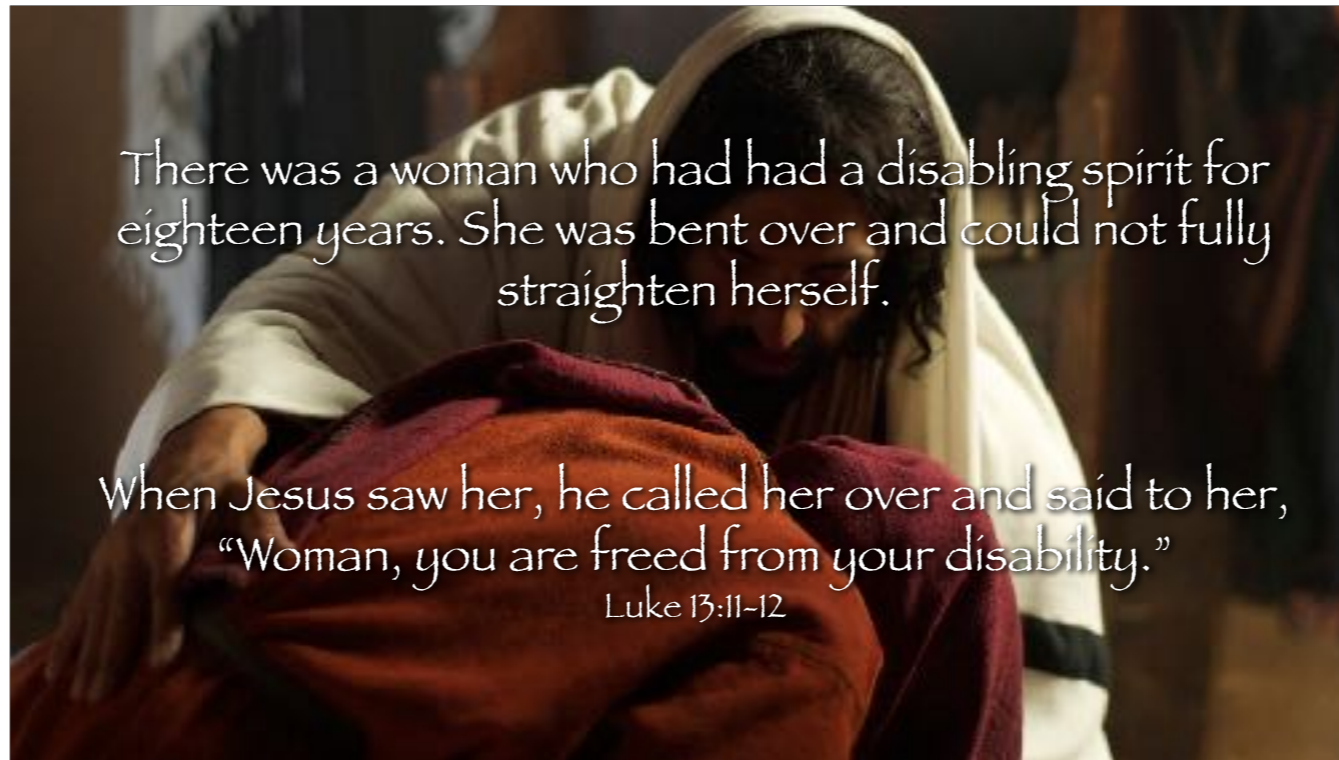
- Luke 13:10-17 (ESV) 10 Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. 11 And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself.



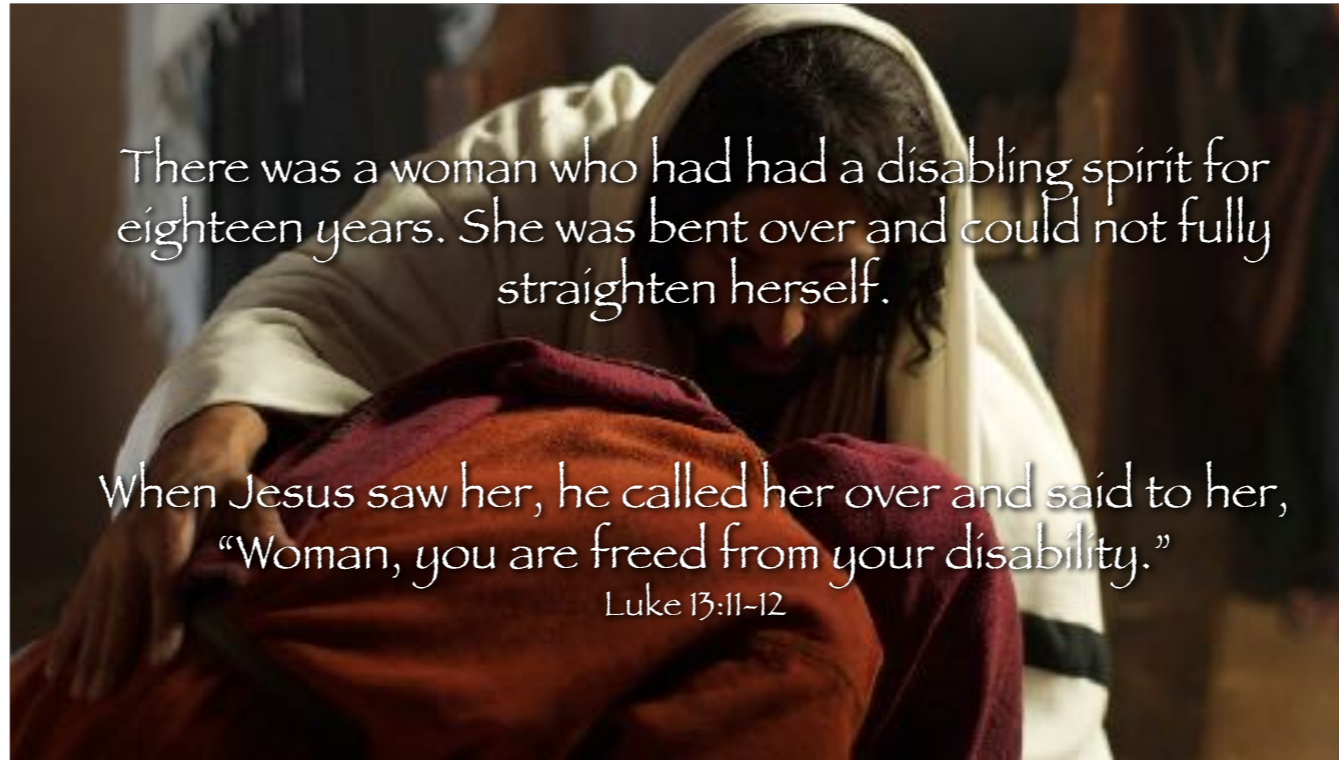
There was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself.

When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your disability."
Luke 13:11-12

- 12 When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your disability." 13 And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God.



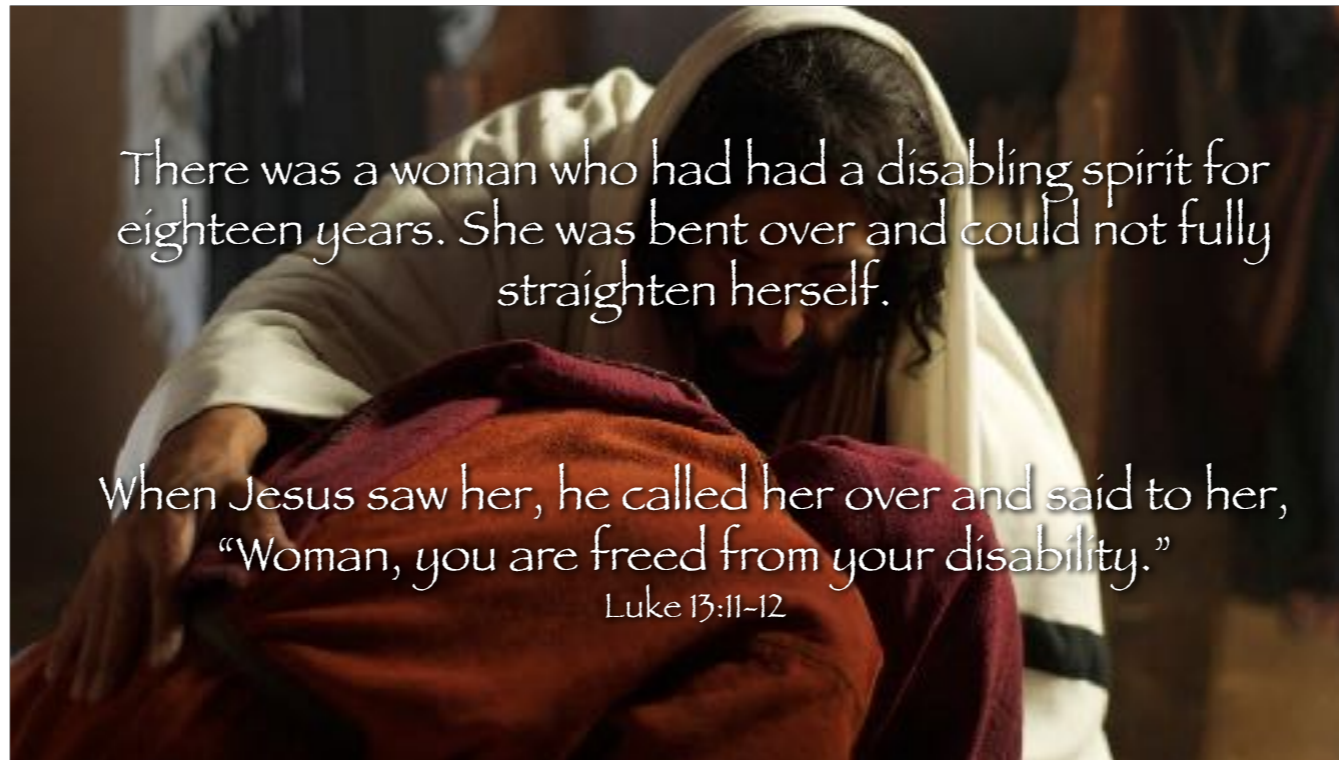
- 14 But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." 15 Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it? 16 And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" 17 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.



There was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself.

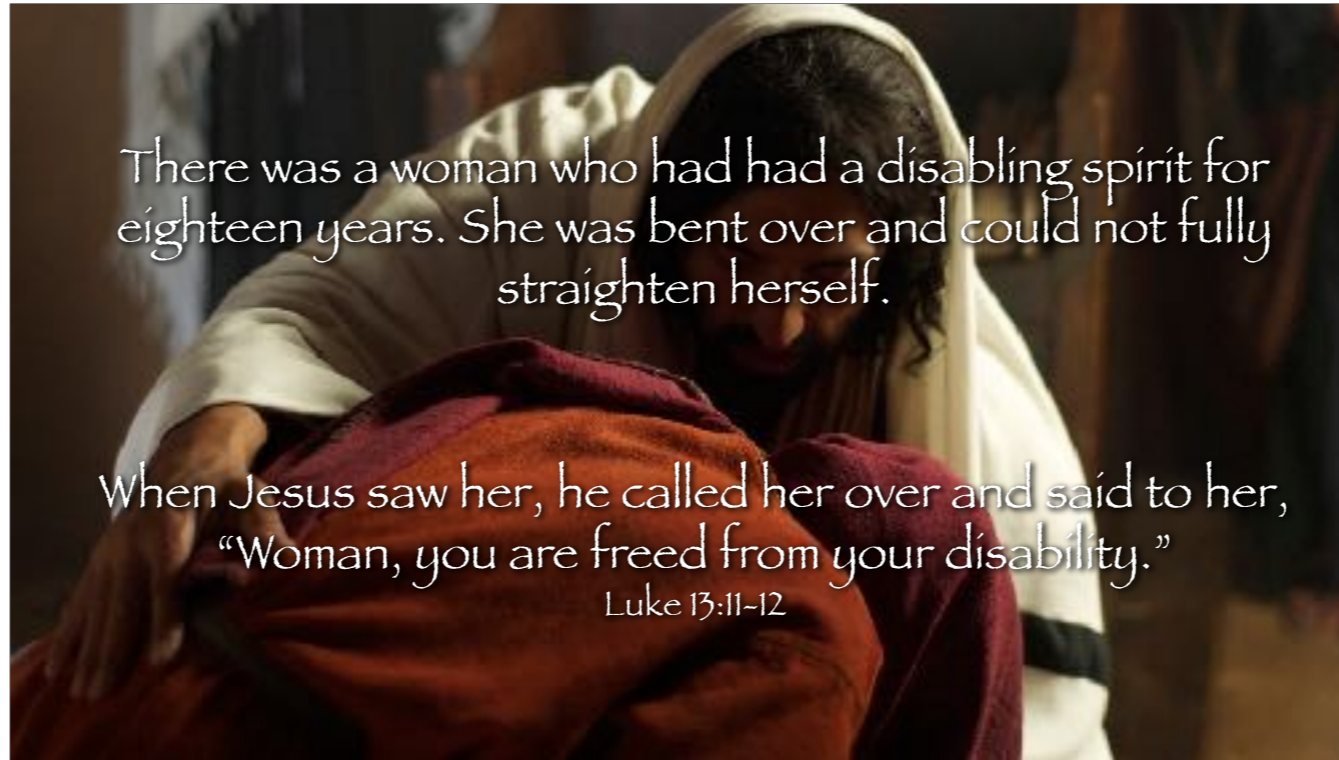
When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your disability."
Luke 13:11-12

- Are you ever indignant when someone who's hurting comes among us?
 - We should be at church to worship God?
 - Why should we be focused on helping people?



- Adversaries put to shame!

- Their hearts weren't right even though they hid behind the guise of righteousness of honoring the Sabbath
- James 2:2-4 (ESV) 2 For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, 3 and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," 4 have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?



- Adversaries put to shame!
 - Do I have reason to be put to shame?
- People rejoice



- Mark 12:41-44 (ESV) 41 And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. 42 And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny.
 - Some people made sure others knew they were giving
 - Matthew 6:2 “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others.
 - How many people noticed the poor widow? (No trumpets)
 - Jesus did!



- 43 And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. 44 For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”
- Jesus noticed the people who others ignored.
 - It’s really an important lesson for us to see in Jesus.
 - Not to be distracted by those we think of as important, or in the forefront and forget to see those who are demonstrating great faith.



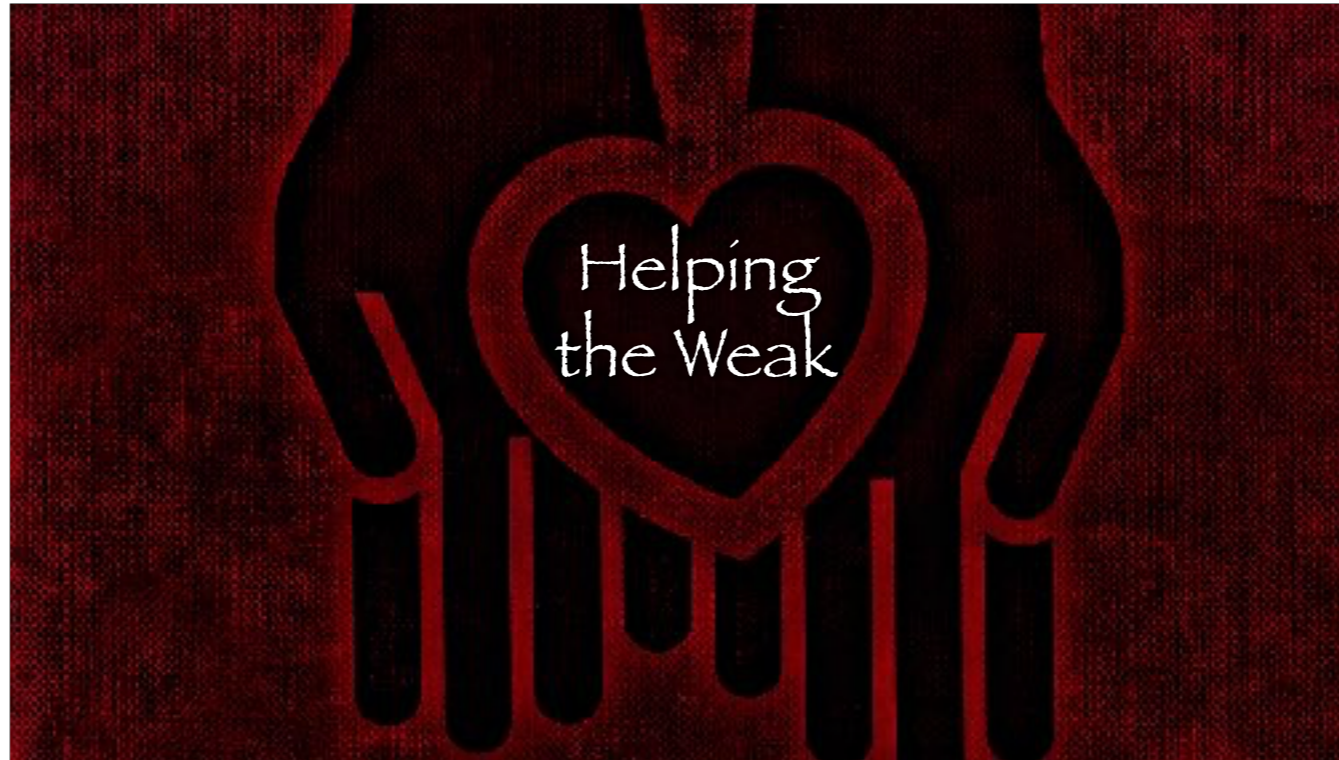
- Luke 14:12-24 (ESV) 12 He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. 13 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."
- If all we've said before isn't clear enough ... Jesus makes it as plain as possible.
 - I don't think he's saying we can't hang out with friends.
 - But he is pushing us to look beyond our comfort zone and make a point of helping the weak.



- 23 And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"
- Jesus does the same for his kingdom ...



- 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (ESV) 26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.



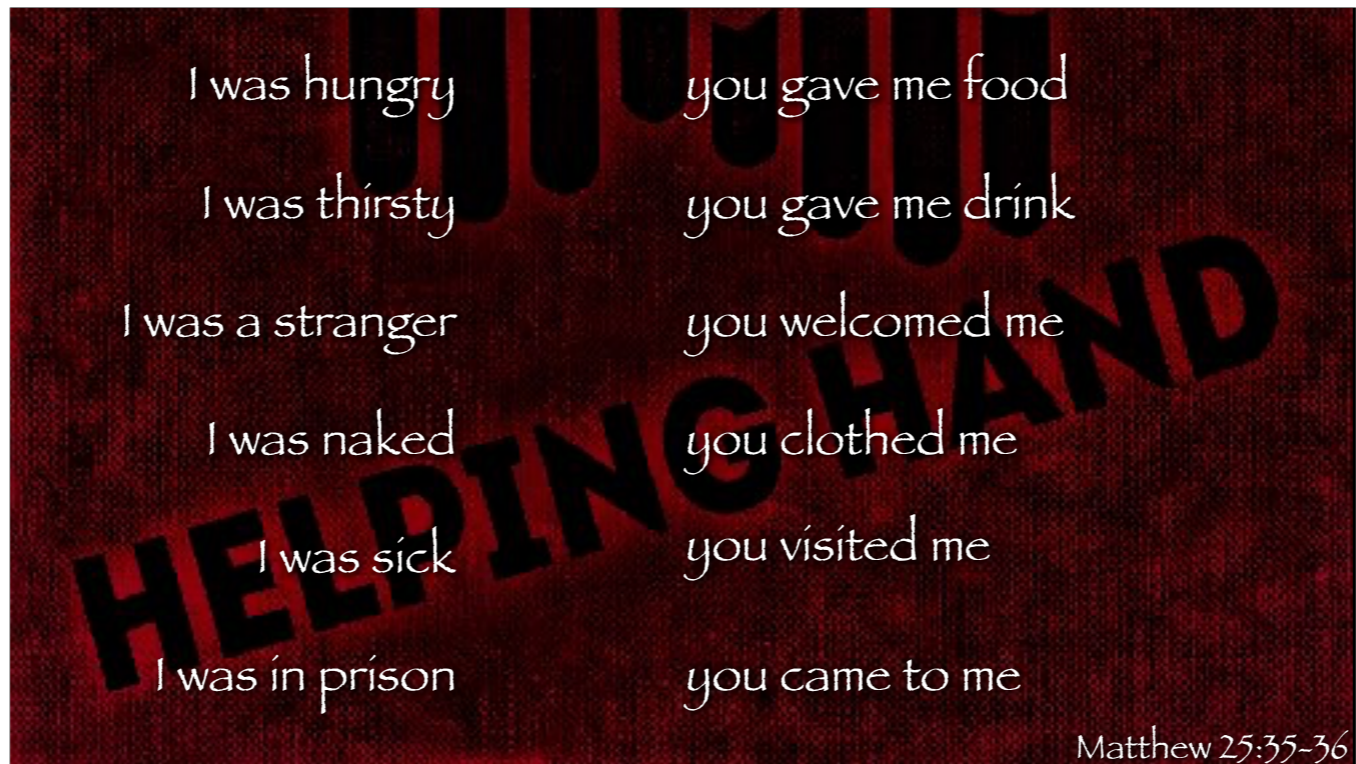
- Physically Jesus helped the weak too
- Two familiar passages remind us how important this is to our God.



- Luke 16:19-31 (ESV) 19 "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20 And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21 who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores.



- 24 And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.'
- So often we turn to this passage to think about what happens after we die ... and miss important lessons
- Why was the rich man in torment? He didn't show mercy, he didn't love his neighbor, he didn't help the weak.
- Now he's learning to understand that when some are in anguish, the proper response is mercy!
- It's in the law!



- Matthew 25:35-36 (ESV) 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'



- Acts 20:35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Help The Weak

Acts 20:35

Synopsis: Jesus sets the example for us of helping the weak both in teaching them and in physically helping them. The importance of this is emphasized when we see this kindness being used as a factor in our judgment.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”