

## **BIBLE READING DAY 27, FRIDAY: MARCH 25**

### **Jesus Heals On the Sabbath**

Luke 13:10–21

*Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath day, and there was a woman present who for eighteen years had suffered an infirmity. She was bent over and unable to stand erect. When Jesus saw her, he called her and said, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity."*

*He laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight. And she began to praise God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath day, said to the people, "There are six days in which men can work. Therefore, come on those days and be healed, but not on the Sabbath day."*

*The Lord answered him, saying, "You hypocrites! Does not every one of you untie his ox or his ass from the manger on the Sabbath and lead it away to drink? And should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan has bound for eighteen years, be released from this bond on the Sabbath day?" When he had said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame, and all the people began to rejoice at all the wonderful things he was doing.*

*"What is the kingdom of God like?" Jesus said. "To what shall I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and dropped in his garden; and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches. To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till all was leavened."*

### **Jesus Travels Through the Villages, Luke 13:22–14: 24**

*Jesus went on his way through the towns and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. And someone said to him, "Lord, will only a few be saved?"*

*Jesus answered, "Strive earnestly to enter in through the narrow door. For I tell you, many will seek to enter and will not be able once the master of the house has got up and locked the door. You may be left standing outside and knocking at the door, crying, 'Lord, open the door for us!' But he will answer you, 'I don't know you, or where you are from.' Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' But he will say, 'I tell you, I don't know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evil doers!'*

*"There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves excluded. And people will come from the east and the west, and from the north and the south, and will sit down in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are now last who will be first, and some are now first who will be last."*

*At that same hour, certain Pharisees came to Jesus and said, "You must leave this place and be on your way, for Herod intends to kill you."*

*"Go and tell that fox," Jesus replied, " 'Behold, today and tomorrow I will cast out demons and perform healings, and the third day I will finish.' Nevertheless, I must journey onward today, tomorrow, and the day following, for it would never do for a prophet to be killed anywhere but at Jerusalem!"*

*Jesus went on a Sabbath day to dine at the home of a leading Pharisee. And they watched him closely, for before him was a man who had dropsy. Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath day, or not?" But they were silent. Then Jesus laid his hand on the man and healed him and sent him on his way. And he said to the lawyers and Pharisees, "Which of you, having an ass or an ox that has fallen into a well, will not pull him out at once on a Sabbath day?" And they had nothing to say in reply.*

Jesus then told a parable to those at the dinner when he noticed how they chose the places of honor:

*“When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the place of honor, lest a more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the man who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this man,’ and with embarrassment, you will have to take the lowest place. Instead, when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when your host comes in, he may say to you, ‘Friend, come take a better seat,’ and you will be honored before those who are seated at the table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

Jesus said to the man who had invited him, *“When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or brothers or relatives or wealthy neighbors, lest they invite you in return and you be repaid. Instead, when you entertain, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, and the blind. Then you will be blessed, for they have nothing with which to repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”*

When one of those who sat at table with him heard these things, he said to Jesus, *“Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!”*

Jesus responded, *“A certain man gave a banquet and invited many people. And at the time for the banquet, he sent his workers to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ But they all began to offer excuses. The first one said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go and see it. I beg of you, please excuse me.’ ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen,’ said another, ‘and I am on my way to try them out. I beg of you, please excuse me.’ And another said, ‘I have just married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So, the servant came and reported these things to his master. The man was angry and said, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city and gather in the poor, the maimed, the blind, and the lame.’ And worker said, ‘Sir, it has been done as you commanded, but there is still room.’ Then the man said, ‘Go to the highways and the bypaths and persuade people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my banquet.”*

### The Cost of True Discipleship Luke 14:25–35

*Great crowds were now following Jesus, and he said to them, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters—yes, and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not follow me bearing a cross of his own cannot be my disciple.*

*“Which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is unable to complete the tower, all who see it begin to scoff at him, saying, ‘This man began to build, but wasn’t able to finish the job!’*

*“Or what king, going to war against another king, will not first sit down and consider whether he is able, with ten thousand men, to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is still afar off, he sends an envoy and asks terms of peace. Just so, every one of you who does not surrender all that he possesses cannot be my disciple.*

*“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, what can restore it? There is nothing to do but throw it away as useless, for it is no good for the ground or for the manure pile. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”*

---



---

*“It is true that God may have called you to be exactly where you are. But, it is absolutely vital to grasp that he didn’t call you there so you could settle in and live your life in comfort and superficial peace.”*

---



---

Frances Chan, *Forgotten God*

#### Approximate Timeline of Jesus’s Public Ministry

EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	1 <sup>st</sup> Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	1 <sup>st</sup> Feast of BOOTHS	WINTER	2 <sup>nd</sup> Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
------------	----------------	-----------------------------------	--------	---------------------------------	--------	-----------------------------------	--------	------	--------	--------	--------	------	--------	--------

## DEVOTIONAL DAY 27 (FRIDAY MARCH 25)

### A Daily Walk With God

*Based on Luke 13:10-14:35*

*When I am with God / My fear is gone / In the great quiet of God /  
My troubles are as pebbles on the road / My joys are like the everlasting hills*

Walter Rauschebach, *The Little Gate to God*

The morning frost crackles under my feet as I walk to my standing daily encounter. It is early and still and full of God. In the distance, the mostly bare oaks are silhouetted against a lightly hued blue sky, as a sliver of orange red emerges into a new day. This is my favorite part of the day, and I am at peace in the stillness. This stillness prepares my heart and reminds me of my many daily blessings. In this work of art, I see God in all His splendor.

God the creator.

God of order.

God of the seasons.

God of renewal.

God that calls me special, every day.

I have always been a morning person, although for many years I didn't appreciate the gift of another day. Then I discovered my most effective time for devotions was in the morning. It may not be your optimum time; we are all different. For me it's perfect, as it comes before the day's distractions and demands pull me away. I absolutely need these daily renewals and I'm blessed to have a quiet, comfortable study of-fice just a quarter of a mile walk from home. Every day I walk to meet with my Lord in the most beautiful canvass of morning light.

In today's passage, there are many different lessons, but there's a simple truth in here, often overlooked. God is with me daily. Not just the six days a week, like the Pharisees advocated. Not just on Sundays, like so many wait for to spend time with our Lord. Every single day, God loves me and wants to meet with me. Every single day is a renewal, a new healing from my sin, and a reminder that today He loves me, even after my missteps of yesterday.

When Jesus healed a handicapped woman, He didn't say, "Oh, wait, what day is it? I better check the calendar to see if this is on the schedule." No, He saw a child of God in need, and He healed. He was and is available, regardless of the calendar.

The Pharisees tried to set up obstacles. The world does the same today. We even do it to ourselves. We install barriers of guilt, of inconvenience. Yet, Jesus calls, even when we do not ask (did you notice that in the passage?). Jesus called out to the woman. She didn't ask, and yet He restored her. Jesus may call us any day of the week to free us from a handicap. Every day He is available to make us anew, refreshed and healed through His grace. This is not a one-and-done God. It's a daily acceptance of His mercies.

Jesus walked and taught with intention, not just a casual stroll. Likewise, we too must be intentional with our relationship. Why meet with the Lord daily? You truly don't know someone until you spend time with that person. To be in God's will, I must first know it. To know it, I need to be available. To be available, I must make every effort to enter His presence. There is no way we can work ourselves into God's favor, but we "work hard to get in" through the narrow door by earnestly desiring to know Jesus and diligently striving to follow Him, whatever the cost.

*Continued on the following page*

**WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:**

**WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?**

**PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?**

**ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION (How God Can Supply Needs**

**A**

**C**

**T**

**S**

**We are to strive in humility. (14:10-11)**

Daily strive to put others before you. I must confess, I can fall short, and require God's grace. We must be intentional with this relationship, and we must not make excuses. We live in a busy world with family, jobs, obligations, and unexpected chaos crushing in on us. It is easy to understand why excuses are made.

Yet, we must remember it's all in His hands anyway. I practice the art of "let go and let God." Believe me, it takes practice, but in your practice, you will develop faith.

One last thought: We cannot hear if we are not in His presence. Whether you are an unbeliever and just hearing the message for the first time or a seasoned believer who has heard it all before, you must be available and attentive to hear what God is saying. Just as salt flavors and preserves food, I am (we are) to preserve the good in the world and bring flavor to life. I need my daily morning time. It preserves me and seasons me. It grows me and makes me more pliable to His will in my life.

I am so far from perfect, but it's a lifetime walk, and I look forward to so many more walks with my Friend, Jesus.

**Abba, Father: Thank You for loving me, as broken and handicapped as I can sometimes be. You renew and cleanse me daily. You invite me to go forward. Show me Your beauty each day. Let me hear Your Word, Your voice in the peace. May others also find this peace. Amen.**

**P.S. See You tomorrow!**

--By Chris Rice