

THE DEFORMED CHURCH – LESSON 11(ABC)
READ LUKE 13:10-17

QUESTIONS

PART 1

DESCRIBE THE WOMAN'S ANATOMICAL DEFORMITY AND SHOW HOW SHE IS A PICTURE OF A DEFORMED CHURCH (DEFORMATION).

PART 2

WHAT CHARACTERISTICS OF REFORMATION CAN YOU FIND IN THE EVENTS THAT TAKE PLACE IN THE SYNAGOGUE WITH REFERENCE TO THE WOMAN?

ANSWERS – THE DEFORMED CHURCH(LESSON 11-ABC)

PART 1

The woman's deformity was structural. She was bent over and could not lift herself up. Her pathology was in the waist. Her hip joints were damaged by disease. She most likely had ankylosis of the hip joints.

SHE IS THE PICTURE OF A BENT CHURCH.

Her pathology was in the waist area, the area that symbolizes truth. She is a picture of BENT TRUTH.

She was bent for 18 years(6+6+6)- a multiple of 6.

6 is the number of man/carnality.

THUS SHE IS A PICTURE OF A CHURCH WHOSE TRUTH IS BENT BY HUMANISM/CARNALITY.

HER DEFORMITY PICTURES CHARACTERISTICS OF A DEFORMED CHURCH:

UPSIDE DOWN MIND.

The woman's mind was upside down. She represents a church/believer with a damaged mindset.

Rom 1:28-32

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,

30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. (NKJ)

Rom 8:7-8

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (NKJ)

AN UPSIDE DOWN MIND IS A DAMAGED, CARNAL MINDSET.

IT IS A REPROBATE/DEBASED MIND.

In addition to the manifestations of such a mindset above, the following are also listed:

-MYSTICISM

-DELUSIONS(FIXED FALSE BELIEF e.g. anointing is in the tie.)

-PRIDE

-SUSPICION

-SENTIMENTALISM(LOVE PLACE ABOVE TRUTH)

-TRADITIONALISM

-SUPERSTITION

-VINDICTIVENESS

-GULLIBILITY

-ILLOGICALITY(Inability to come to rational conclusions.)

-INFERIORITY, etc

JUST ONE ASPECT OF A DAMAGED MINDSET WILL BE DEALT WITH HERE viz. DELUSIONS.

A delusion is a fixed false belief.

Examples:
DELUSION OF GRANDEUR

BELIEF OF EXTRAORDINARY GREATNESS.

Luke 18:11-12

11 "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men-- extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.

12 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' (NKJ)

Zeph 2:15

This is the rejoicing city that dwelt securely, that said in her heart, "I am it, and there is none besides me." How has she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down! Everyone who passes by her shall hiss and shake his fist. (NKJ)

DELUSION OF UNCHANGING CONDITIONS

James 4:13-14

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit";

14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. (NKJ)

DELUSION THAT WE HAVE PLENTY OF TIME

Acts 24:25

Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." (NKJ)

DELUSION THAT OUTWARD CLEANSING IS SANCTIFICATION

Matt 23:25-27

25 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence.

26 "Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. (NKJ)

SOME CURRENT DELUSIONS IN THE CHURCH.

Fasting is abstention from food only(Isa. 58 disagrees).

Length of prayer is more important than righteousness.

Attire determines anointing.

Manifestations are greater than the voice of God.

The building is the church.

The Old Testament is old and irrelevant.

Yielding to legitimate leadership is weakness.

Anointing validates the man.

Numbers indicate favour.

Charisma is more important than character.

Evangelism is more important than discipleship.

THESE DELUSIONS INDICATE A DAMAGED MINDSET - AN UPSIDE DOWN MIND.

UPSIDE DOWN EYES

To her, everyone else was upside down. She was accustomed to an abnormal perception. If you had to write the numbers 8, 11, 1 on the board, she would read these numbers accurately. If you wrote 6 on the board she would read it as 9.

When it comes to perception, it is not what we agree upon that is important, but rather what we disagree upon.

THE ISSUE HERE IS THAT THE BENT CHURCH SEES THE SAME THING AS THE STRAIGHT CHURCH, BUT CONCLUDES WRONGLY.

EXAMPLES OF ABNORMAL PERCEPTION:

GOLIATH(1 Sam. 17)

Saul saw a giant.

David saw an uncircumcised Philistine.

DESCENDANTS OF ANAK

10 spies saw giants.

Num 13:33

"There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." (NKJ)

Joshua and Caleb saw bread.

Num 14:9

9 "Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them." (NKJ)

BABYLONIAN GARMENTS, SILVER AND GOLD.

Achan saw beautiful garments, silver and gold.

Josh 7:21

"When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it." (NKJ)

God saw an unclean thing.

Josh 7:1

But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the LORD burned against the children of Israel (NKJ)

CROSS

Foolishness to those who perish.

To us it is the power of God to salvation.

1 Cor 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

(NKJ)

Jesse saw a shepherd boy, God saw a king.

Gideon saw himself a coward, God saw a mighty man of valour.

Everyone saw Mary's son, John saw the lamb of God.

STRICT DRESS CODE, AGE RESTRICTIONS, EXTERNAL PREOCCUPATION.

bent - see excellence

straight – see religion

BLOOD, HOLY WATER, SIGN OF THE CROSS

bent – see spirituality

straight – see superstition and traditions.

BOARD OF COUNCILLORS WHO CONTROL THE CHURCH.

bent - see order in government

straight - see Jezebel

GATHERING OF RENOWN MEN TO OVERTHROW THE SET MAN

bent – see justice

straight – see Korah

BROTHER AT THE DOOR KISSING AND PAMPERING THE BELIEVERS.

bent – see beauty

straight – see Absalom

BROTHER FIGHTING, RESISTING AND UNDERMINING THE SET MAN.

bent – see disagreement

straight – see rebellion

BROTHER SITS IN LEADERSHIP WITHOUT APPOINTMENT, WHEN SET MAN IS SICK OR ABSENT.

bent – see responsibility

straight – see Adonijah

UPSIDE DOWN SHOULDERS.

The woman's shoulders were upside down. She could no longer be a burden – bearer. She could carry nothing on her shoulders. In fact she was the burden. Her death would be a relief. She had no capacity to serve.

This is a church/believer who requires high maintenance and is unable to carry the burden of the vision of the local church.

WAIST AND BUTTOCKS HIGHER THAN HER HEAD.

This is a picture of degradation, shame and iniquity.
She is a picture of lawlessness(iniquity, warped truth)
The bent waist is a symbol of bent truth.

Ezra 9:6

And I said, "O my God: I am too ashamed and humiliated to lift up my face to You, my God; for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has grown up to the heavens. (NKJ)

Ps 38:4

For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. (NKJ)

Ps 119:133

Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.
(KJV)

This is a church whose iniquity is no longer hidden. It has risen over the head, and is now in dominion.
LAWLESSNESS RULES IN THIS CHURCH.

LAWLESSNESS RULES WHEN:

manifestations are exalted above the voice of God.

Gifts get greater recognition than the giver.

Traditions are exalted above Biblical accuracy.

Jezebel, Absalom and Korah are given respectability in the church.

EASY TO DROWN

Because she was bent over, her head was at the level of her ankles. She could easily drown in ankle depth water. She could not move from depth to depth in water.

Thus, this represents a problem of superficiality – inability to handle water depth – inability to handle deeper truths of God's Word. The bent church is easily killed by elementary things. She cannot move from glory to glory or from level to level.

ISOLATION THROUGH DEFORMITY

The bent woman could not sit at the table. She could not sit face to face. She was most comfortable when eating from the floor. Her defect impaired fellowship. This pictures a believer/church bound by strife. The impairment in fellowship is caused by deformity, not an evil spirit.

The upright posture demands that you come up to the table for fellowship. The posture of the bent woman, demands that you come down. Fellowship with her will take you down. There are some folk that demand that you stand on your head to have fellowship with them.

EASY TO OVERTAKE

The woman was slowed by her deformity. It was easy to overtake her.

When you are easily overtaken, it could be because you are spiritually bent. To be constantly overtaken is the manifestation of a curse.

Deut 28:45

"Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you. (NKJ)

Deut 28:43

"The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. (NKJ)

If nothing is working out, don't always blame the devil – it could be deformity.

DEPENDANT

The bent woman could not help herself. She was dependant on others.

She is a clear picture of a person with a dependant personality disorder. Any person/church who is dependant on the resources of others is bent.

BACKWARD VIEW

The woman's posture fixed her into a posterior vision. For her to go forward it would be easier to turn

around and go backwards.

In order to go forwards she had to go backwards.

THIS IS A CHURCH WHERE WHAT IS CALLED PROGRESS IS ACTUALLY RETROGRESSION.

e.g. the acceptance of homosexuality is called advancement.

The church accepts covering by a secular university in the name of progress.

THE SECOND FEATURE ABOUT POSTERIOR VISION IS THAT THIS CHURCH IS FIXATED IN THE PAST.

HEAD CLOSE TO THE EARTH

The nature of her deformity brought her head close to the earth. She was always looking down, not up.

She had no upward focus. She is a picture of worldliness.

This church is materially bound. She is earthy. She cannot see the higher purposes of God.

Col 3:2

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. (NKJ)

This is a church walking according to the course of this world.

Eph 2:2

in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,
(NKJ)

A straight person, can stand on the earth and freely move his hands in the air – standing on the earth and operating from the heaven. The bent church stands on the earth and operates from the earth.

SHE IS SHORT

She cannot reach. She looks like an animal.

This represents a church that cannot grasp spiritual things.

2 Tim 3:7

always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (NKJ)

SHE IS VULNERABLE

You did not need a plan to rob her. She was an easy victim. She was vulnerable and defenceless.

This is a church which has several access points for demonic attacks. It would be difficult for her to put on the whole armour of God.

PART 2

Luke 13:12-13

12 But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity."

13 And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. (NKJ)

Jesus saw her, called her, spoke to her and laid his hands on her.

Jesus has seen, he has called, he has spoken and now he is laying his hands on the church through the five-fold ministry. The five – fold ministry brings reformation.

CHARACTERISTICS OF REFORMATION

INSTANTANEOUS

“ immediately she was made straight”

Everything changed immediately for the woman.

Transformation was instantaneous like the blind man who went to the pool of Siloam.

2 Cor 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (NKJ)

The tearing of the veil took place in an instant. There was an instant change in her structure. Structural change that brings you back to normality is called reformation.
Transition from levitical priesthood to royal priesthood was instantaneous.

STRAIGHTENING

"she was made straight"

Her length doubled. She now had all the features of a normal human being. Her reach and boundary were extended.

Her brain, eyes and shoulders were no longer upside down.

She was no longer an object of degradation and shame. She could handle different depths in the water.

She could fellowship easily with others, was not easily overtaken, no longer dependant, no longer earth focussed, no longer short, no longer a vulnerable victim, and she could walk accurately.

THESE CHANGES ARE FEATURES OF A GENUINE REFORMATION PROCESS.

To go back to the old is to go to deformity.

ANTAGONISES THE RELIGIOUS ORDER

Luke 13:14

But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." (NKJ)

The religious mindset is offended by the reformation process.

ADVERSARIES PUT TO SHAME

Luke 13:17

And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him. (NKJ)

The adversaries of God are put to shame and silenced by a true reformation process.

THE MULTITUDES REJOICE

all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him. (NKJ)

The multitude rejoice in a true reformation process, because they see the crooked become straight.

6. GLORIFIES GOD

all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him. (NKJ)

The charismatic movement glorified man.

In a true reformation process, there is unambiguous recognition that it is the work of God, not man.

Luke 13:16

"So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound-- think of it-- for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" (NKJ)

SATAN CAUSES DEFORMATION.

JESUS BRINGS REFORMATION.

REFORMATION TAKES PLACE WHEN YOU MEET WITH JESUS.

ARE YOU BENT OR ARE YOU SENT?