

A Woman Bent Double

Luke 13:1-17

by Don Falkos

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Jesus was told about some people from Galilee that Pontius Pilate had had killed while they were at worship.

Jesus asked, "Do you think these people were worse than everyone else from Galilee just because of what happened to them? And what about those eighteen people who died when the tower of Siloam fell on them? Were they any worse than everyone else in Jerusalem? Of course not! But you can be sure if you don't turn back to God, every one of you will also die.

A man had a fig tree growing in his yard. For three years he went to that tree to find figs, but there were none. So he said to his gardener, "This tree is a waste of space. Chop it down."

But the gardener said, "Let's give it one more year. I'll dig around it and fertilize it, and maybe it'll produce figs next year. If it doesn't, then I'll chop it down."

One Sabbath Jesus healed a woman who for eighteen years had been bent over almost double, unable to straighten up. The leader of the synagogue said to the people, "There are six days of the week for work. Come to be healed on one of those days, not on the Sabbath." And many who were there agreed with him.

But Jesus said, "You hypocrites! Doesn't every one of you untie his ox or his donkey on the Sabbath and lead it out to drink? Well, what about this woman. She has suffered for eighteen years. Shouldn't she be freed from her bondage, even on the Sabbath?"

Jesus' detractors were ashamed. But the rest of the people were thrilled at all the wonderful things Jesus was doing.