



# Daily Reflections

## October 29, 2018

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### Scripture

#### **Luke 13: 10-17**

Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on the sabbath.  
And a woman was there who for eighteen years  
had been crippled by a spirit;  
she was bent over, completely incapable of standing erect.  
When Jesus saw her, he called to her and said,  
"Woman, you are set free of your infirmity."  
He laid his hands on her,  
and she at once stood up straight and glorified God.  
But the leader of the synagogue,  
indignant that Jesus had cured on the sabbath,  
said to the crowd in reply,  
"There are six days when work should be done.  
Come on those days to be cured, not on the sabbath day."  
The Lord said to him in reply, "Hypocrites!  
Does not each one of you on the sabbath  
untie his ox or his ass from the manger  
and lead it out for watering?  
This daughter of Abraham,  
whom Satan has bound for eighteen years now,  
ought she not to have been set free on the sabbath day  
from this bondage?"  
When he said this, all his adversaries were humiliated;

and the whole crowd rejoiced at all the splendid deeds done by him.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Jesus casts a bright light on the hypocritical mind and heart of the synagogue leader. He was supposed to be one of the holiest of men! But he is mean-spirited and petty. He would not hesitate to care for the needs of a farm animal but when it came to the desperate needs of a suffering woman, well it just didn't fit his narrow understanding of Sabbath regulations. Jesus heals the woman and provides a lesson for all who are humble enough to see and hear it: Mercy trumps legalism any day and any time.

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## **Food for your Journey**

What are the alternatives to worshiping God? There are four, according to the commandments. One is to worship a different god. This is given no elaboration, because it needs none: God has brought Israel out of slavery. What use would Israel have for any other god?

A second is to make an idol. This is to worship something smaller than God, something God has made. It is to confuse the creation with the creator, to serve that which cannot liberate -- in other words, to return to slavery.

A third is to trivialize God by forgetting that his name is holy, by using his name to advance our own purposes rather than his. If we frequently call on him when we don't want him, we must accept that he won't be there to answer when we really do.

The fourth is to make gods of ourselves. This is the underlying warning of the commandments concerning the Sabbath and parents.

--David F. Wells, "God spoke these words (Exodus 20:1-17)," *The Christian Century*, March 15, 2000, 301. Retrieved October 4, 2017.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, You are the gift of our Father's love to this world. You were always attentive and responsive to the needs of those who were hurting. May I always respond with love and generosity to the lowly in my own day. May they see Your love in my love. Amen