



Sermon Notes: Independence Day

1. The disfigurement of sin.

- a. It is crippling.
- b. It is cruel.
- c. It is controlling.

2. The deliverance of Jesus.

- a. It is compassionate.
- b. It is costly.

3. The dogma of religion.

- a. It is calloused.
- b. It is contradictory.

4. The dynamism of the kingdom.

- a. It is continuous and certain.
- b. It is counterintuitive.
- c. It is comprehensive.



Application Questions: Independence Day

1. How do you think most of her peers viewed this woman who'd been bent over by her disability for eighteen years?
2. Put yourself in this woman's shoes. How do you think you'd feel entering the synagogue on that Sabbath day?
3. What reason did the ruler of the synagogue give to object to Jesus' healing of this woman? What do you think his real objection was? Why did this healing make him so angry?
4. Referring to your answers for #3, what effects does Christless religion tend to have on those in power? What effects does it tend to have on others?
5. What are some ways sin cripples us? Controls us? Makes us feel hopeless?
6. List some common "rules" that you find in various religions. Reflecting on your list, how do the enforcers of these rules often practice them hypocritically? [e.g. A religious leader forbids lying, yet actively slanders and deceives others to portray himself in the best possible light.] Why do you think Christless religion universally tends to breed hypocrisy?
7. Jesus' answer to both the brokenness of sin and the brokenness of religion was a restoration of the created order (verse 16). Explain. What might this restoration look like with an area of brokenness in your own life?
8. Why do you think Jesus told these parables (about the grain of mustard seed and the yeast) here and now?
9. Where in your life do you need to believe the theme of these parables right now? How would this encourage and motivate you if you actually believed it?
10. How will you help someone experience the healing and forgiveness of Jesus this week? Be specific.