

Don't Get Bent Out Of Shape

(Luke 13:10-17)

- Introduction:
1. I'm sure that most of us, in our quieter more contemplative moments, would agree that getting bent out of shape over circumstances in life is not the best way to handle things.
 2. But sometimes you have no control over getting bent out of shape.
 3. While this is a play on words, just such an occasion is recorded in Luke 13.
 4. In this story, you will notice a "bent out of shape lady," a "bent out of shape leader," and a "bent out of shape law."

I. A Bent Out Of Shape Lady

- A. (Luke 13:10-13).
- B. For 18 years, this woman had to endure the hardships of physical oppression brought upon her by Satan.
- C. In spite of being "bent," please notice that her priorities were a lot straighter than many people who walk erect!
- D. It would be much better to have bent bodies and straight bodies than to have straight bodies and bent priorities!

II. A Bent Out Of Shape Leader

- A. (Luke 13:14).
- B. First, notice his tactics...he's mad at Jesus and addresses the crowd (Matthew 18:15).
- C. Isn't it sad to see the lack of compassion some people have on the plight of their fellow man?
- D. I wonder what this man would have said if he was the one who had been suffering for 18 years.

III. A Bent Out Of Shape Law

- A. (Luke 13:15-17).
- B. Jesus makes a poignant and humiliating point..."you guys do more for your animals than your argument allows me to do for this poor lady!"
- C. (Matthew 12:12) Jesus' commentary on the Sabbath law was quite different than the commentary of the Jewish leaders of his day.
- D. The faith can be bent so out of shape that it no longer resembles the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.
- E. Some Christians today still carry around their "Mishnahs."

- Conclusion:
1. What physically happened to this lady continues to happen spiritually today.
 2. Bound by Satan, unable to stand upright in the presence of God, Jesus can cast out Satan, and stand us upright in the presence of God.
 3. Why not accept what Jesus can do for you today.