

People You Need in Your Life

Who's Your Afflicted Person

(Luke 13:10-17; Matthew 8:28-34)

- Introduction:
1. For the past several weeks, we have been examining people we need in our lives.
 2. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12) We do need people.
 3. In this lesson, we will discuss why we need an "afflicted person" in our life.

I. **Biblical Examples**

- A. An Afflicted Woman (Luke 13:10-17).
 1. A woman was afflicted for 18 years, not being able to stand up straight.
 2. When Jesus healed her, the ruler of the synagogue was indignant.
 3. Jesus rebuked him for his hard heart and his misunderstanding of Scripture.
- B. An Afflicted Man (Matthew 8:28-34).
 1. This man was possessed by demons and his life was ruined.
 2. Jesus heals the man, but those who stood by did not rejoice but rather, asked Jesus to leave.

II. **Lessons We Can Learn from the Afflicted**

- A. We learn compassion (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
- B. We learn to be more thankful for our blessings (Philippians 4:6).
- C. We learn to couple our faith with works (James 2:14-17).
- D. We learn perspective (Hebrews 9:27).
- E. We learn to be more conscious of time (Psalm 90:10,12).

III. **Ways We Can Minister to the Afflicted**

- A. Be a good listener (James 1:19).
- B. Let them talk about death.
- C. Remind people of what they already know (Luke 7:18-22).
- D. Offer to help in a "real" way.
- E. Don't compare troubles.
- F. Speak to them, not about them.
- G. Don't overstay your visit.
- H. Help break the monotony of loneliness.

- Conclusion:
1. You need an afflicted person in your life.
 2. Our relationships should not just be one-sided. Sometimes, instead of "getting," we need to "give."
 3. Who's your "Afflicted Person" who will help you become more like Jesus?