



HOW DO WE BUILD AN
AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY?
LUKE 13:10-19 NIV

¹⁰ On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, ¹¹ and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.

- ” ¹³ Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. ¹⁴ Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, “There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.”

15 The Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? 16 Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?”

17 When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

18 Then Jesus asked, “What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? 19 It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.”

Authentic Community

"How do we build an authentic community?"

In other words, how do we become a church that is committed to love and care for one another?

1) We must understand that we all need God's Grace.

a) Luke 13 begins by a sad story, 'Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? 3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

b) In verse 1, Pilate had apparently put to death some Galileans as they were offering worship sacrifices in Jerusalem, the Bible has not given us the reason.

c) Jewish Theology at that time attributed individual's suffering to individual sin, so the Jews interpreted the fate of this Galileans as God's punishment for their sin.

d) Repentance is the key to our authentic Community.

2) We can build an authentic Community by caring for one another.

a) Jesus demonstrated this by reaching out to a woman who was crippled for 18 years. 10 On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues,

11 and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. 12 When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity. (*Luke 13:10-12*).

b) For some of us Sunday is the only day for connection, each day should be, '**connect day**'.

c) Join a small group.

d) We see Jesus reaching out to Zacchaeus

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

(Luke 19:5)

e) Paul told the Romans that, *10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. (Romans 12:10-13).*

3) We can build an authentic Community when we understand that the Glory belongs to God.

a) Jesus Compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a mustard seed.

18 Then Jesus asked, “What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? 19 It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.” (Luke 13:18-19).

b) Matthew puts even more emphasis on this verse,

*31 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 **Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.**” (Matthew 13:31-32).*

c) What does this mean? The authentic Community is God's work that is growing in you slowly, as you nurture this tree, people will start to see and understand. Your work may seem to be the least but means a lot to God.

d) I pray that KBC Community will be a place where birds can build their nests, people that are hurting will find healing, people that are broken will find love.

I will conclude with Apostle Paul's words to the Romans,

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary:

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

21 Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with
good. (*Romans 12:17-21*)

- We find that in *Luke 13:10-17*, Jesus freed a woman from a disability on the Sabbath after 18 years, and the people that observed this healing concluded that Jesus was committing sin.
- Our society is crippled with sin, unforgiveness, pride, etc. God is inviting you and I to be sincere, God is looking for an authentic community that represents his kingdom
- God has called His church to influence and shape the community.

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care'.

'People may hear your words, but they feel your attitude'. *(By John Maxwell)*