

Thou Art Loosed
Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC
Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr.
October 18, 2026

Text: Luke 13:10-17

Purpose: Jesus meets a woman who was tormented for eighteen years with a deformity that left her bent and bound. Jesus saw her and called her unto Him. He spoke and set her free. He touched and restored her. We can be bound by many things – when we turn to Jesus, He can change our pain into praise – our shame into shouts. Jesus is calling us to trust Him, will we come unto Him?

A wise old gentleman retired and purchased a modest home near a junior high school. He spent the first few weeks of his retirement in peace and contentment.

Then a new school year began. The very next afternoon, three young boys full of youthful after-school enthusiasm came down his street beating merrily on every trash can they encountered. The crashing percussion continued day after day, until finally the wise old man decided it was time to take some action.



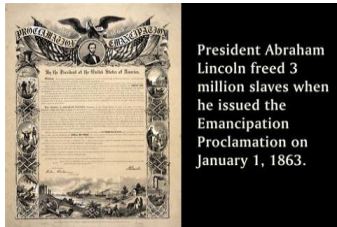
The next afternoon, he walked out to meet the young percussionists as they banged their way down the street. Stopping them, he said, "You kids are a lot of fun. I like to see you express your exuberance like that. I used to do the same thing when I was your age. Will you do me a favor? I'll give you each a dollar if you'll promise to come around every day and do your thing."

The kids were elated and continued to do a bang-up job on the trash cans.

A few days later, the wily retiree approached them again as they drummed their way down the street. "Look" he said, "I haven't received my Social Security (Pension) check yet, so I'm not going to be able to give you more than 25 cents. Will that be okay?"

"A lousy quarter?" the drum leader exclaimed. "If you think we're going to waste our time beating these cans around for a quarter, you're nuts! No way, mister. We quit!"

And the old man enjoyed peace and serenity for the rest of his days.¹



At Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural, shortly before his assassination in 1865, he spoke of how both parties despised the thought of war, and yet war came. He continued, "Neither party

expected the war, the magnitude, or the duration, which it has already attained. Each looked for an easier triumph. Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other."

And with that, Lincoln let his own feelings show through as he spoke of how strange it was, "that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces."

Ultimately, the slaves were set free. Theoretically, it became legal as early as the first day of the year, 1863, in what has come to be known as the Emancipation

Proclamation. "The word spread," in the words of one historian, "from Capitol Hill out across the city, down into the valleys and fields of Virginia and the Carolinas, and even into the plantations of Georgia and Mississippi and Alabama.



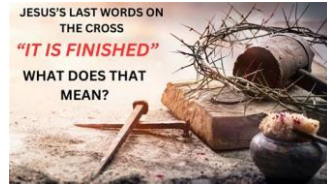
Newspapers shouted: 'Slavery Legally Abolished!' Yet something amazing took place. The greater majority of the slaves in the South went right on living as though they were not emancipated. That continued throughout the Reconstruction Period."

"The black slave remained locked in a caste system of 'race etiquette' as rigid as any had known in formal bondage, and that every slave could repeat, with equal validity, what an Alabama slave had mumbled when asked what he thought of the Great Emancipator whose proclamation had gone into effect. 'I don't know nothin' 'bout Abraham Lincoln cep they say he sot us free. And I don't know nothin' 'bout that neither.'"



How tragic. A war was fought. A document had been signed. Slaves were legally set free: emancipated. And yet most continued to live out their years, and many of their children some of their years, in fear, saying, "I don't know nothin' 'bout that neither." In a context of freedom, slaves chose to remain slaves, though they were legally freed. Even though emancipated, they kept serving the same master throughout their lives.²

Sadly, many people are like the slaves after the Civil War. All the official documents have been signed; all the legal matters have been taken care of. God has accepted the “*emancipation proclamation*” made by Jesus on Calvary, when He said, “*It is finished*”. In Christ, we have been set free forever! We are no longer in bondage to our sins, our past, our guilt, or anything else that we might name. Yet, we still live in bondage because we will not accept the freedom available to us in Jesus.



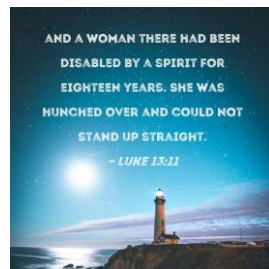
Our passage of scripture this morning is about how Jesus can set us free. As we watch Him deliver a sick woman from the bondage of her sickness, we get a picture of what He can do for us, if we

will come to Him. Let's spend a few minutes in this passage and consider the subject, “*Thou Art Loosed.*” Perhaps today will be the day when you identify the things that bind you and take steps to be free from it forever!

I. The Torment She Endured (vs. 11, 16)³

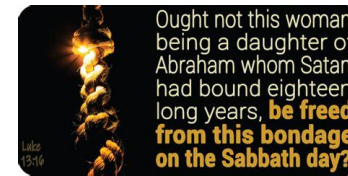
A. She was afflicted physically.

Jesus was in the synagogues teaching on the Sabbath day. He was not out golfing, fishing, or sleeping in. He was in the house of the Lord where all that love the Lord should be if they are able, on the Lord's Day. He looked across the crowd and saw a woman that was in severe physical pain. According to Luke 13:11, she “*was bent over and could in no way raise herself up.*” I am sure



every day was a struggle for her. She could not look up. She could not straighten herself under her own power. When you are bent over in life, it is hard to praise God. But when God enters your situation, you will be able to look at your present situation and know that God is in the midst of it all. He will make a way, where there seems to be no way.

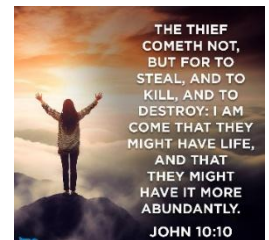
B. She was Attacked Spiritually



Her oppression was not only physical; it was also spiritual. In verse 16, we see Jesus has identified the problem as one where Satan had bound her. It does not say she was demon possessed, rather she was physically oppressed. Her body was broken with affliction.

Even a saved person can be tried by Satan. I don't believe a saved person can be demon possessed. In this situation, Jesus did not cast out a demon; he simply spoke to her condition. She was not demon possessed; she was demon oppressed. Most of the time, our problems are simply a part of the human condition. We live in fragile bodies that become weaker or susceptible to disease or injury. So, we do not need to blame every cold on the Devil. But we do need to realize we can come under attack from the enemy.

Satan goal is to kill, steal, and destroy. He seeks for ways in which he can bind us and hinder us from being all that God wants us to be. Maybe there are things in your life that are binding you and hindering you. Could it be sin? Bitterness? Temptation? Hatred, Addiction, Lust, Envy, Greed, Fear, or Finances?



The list could include some good things that hinder and bind us from following God free from bondage.

C. She was Affected Socially



As much as she was impacted physically and spiritually, I am sure she was affected socially as well. Having lived in the same condition for eighteen years, I am sure people may have made fun of her. People are cruel when they encounter someone that is different. Why are people cruelest towards those that are weakest? Maybe people ignored her, walked on the other side of the street to avoid her. I am sure she was painfully aware of others rejection of her. If you feel awkward about your physical limitations or handicaps, realize this can become a trap to bind you if you allow it to define who you are.



This woman apparently did not allow it to define her. Yes, she may have suffered with this condition for eighteen years, but where was she when it came time to worship God? She was right there in the synagogue. She could have been there every week and God still allowed her to go through the pain and suffering. She was not healed but she continued to come.

She prayed even when it seemed like God was not going to answer. She remained faithful as she waited for God to respond. Today, if we are in pain one hour, we are running to the medicine cabinet for some pain relief in a bottle. Here she was bent almost double, still coming to worship God.



She persisted even when her conditions did not merit this kind of faith. I believe she continued to be faithful because she trusted God and

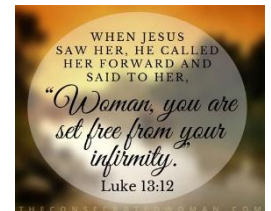
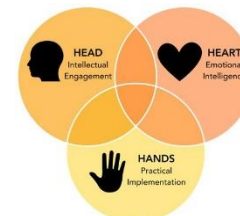
knew that He knew best! She was a living example of Romans 8:28 which says, *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”*

I think she believed in her heart that God loved her and the Lord was worthy of worship even if He never touched and healed her. She loved Him and wanted to worship Him. Are you that committed to the Lord? If something happened to you or your family, would you simply stop worshipping God?

There are many able-bodied individuals that could come and join us on Sunday morning, but refuse to do it because of some hindrance.

II. The Touch She Experienced (vs. 12-17)

I am sure as Jesus was teaching that morning in the synagogue, there were many listening. In verse 12 we read, *“He saw her.”* Have you ever been somewhere and you lock eyes with someone across the room? You connect with them, and they with you. Jesus had come to worship God and teach others about the Kingdom of God. It is more than simply sitting. *Worship is more than an experience in the head, it is an experience of the heart that finds it's response with our hands.*

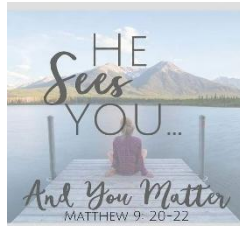


Far too many people come to church and shift their brain into neutral and glide through the service – neither moving or being moved by what they experience.

Genuine worship occurs when our belief moves from our head down to our hearts and then out into our hands. Even James 2:20 says, *“Faith without works is dead.”* Time spent in church that doesn’t move your heart and hands is not worship, it is just time spent in church!

A. From Jesus, She Received a Compassionate Word

When Jesus saw her, He called her to come over to Him and receive a compassionate word. Once she arrived, Jesus called her *“Woman.”* She was not the woman bent over that others may have talked about or made fun of. She was a person of worth.



You may feel as if something is wrong with you and feel others are pointing their fingers at you and talking about you. But know that Jesus sees you as a person of worth. He doesn’t see your problems. He doesn’t look on your past. He doesn’t judge you in light of your scars. He sees you for what you can become through His power operating in your life. He sees what you can do and not based upon where you are today.



In the King James Version, Jesus said, *“Thou art loosed from thine infirmity.”* What she may have tried to do over the years, Jesus took care of with a word. It was with a

word creation was made. In this situation, it only took a word to straighten her crooked spine.

I don’t know what things are oppressing you this morning. I don’t know what issues in your past are binding you and causing you to be bent out of shape today. It could be physical but it may be emotionally or spiritually as well. If you only look to Jesus, he can enter your situation and ease the burden.

Jesus said Matthew 11:28-30, *“Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*



John 8:36 reminds us, *“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”* He has saved us and set us free from the things that bind us. We can live as free people if we simply take Jesus’ yoke and walk with Him.

B. From Jesus, She Received a Comprehensive Work

Not only did the woman receive a compassionate word, she also received a comprehensive work. The miracle Jesus performed was speedy, perfect, public, and permanent. It was a healing that went deep inside this woman.



After Jesus spoke to this woman, he reached out and touched her. Immediately she was able to stand up straight. For eighteen years she was bent over, unable to move around easily, unable to look up and see people's faces, unable to interact with people, unable to serve God to her fullest.

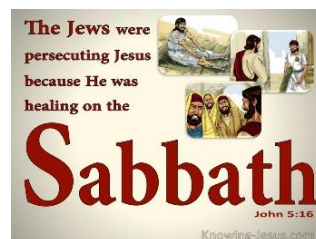


Jesus broke the bonds that held her and the very first thing she did was glorify God. If you feel as if you are kept in captivity, look unto Jesus, come unto Jesus, let his words speak into your situation, and know you are a child of the king and you are set free. You don't need to live in bondage anymore. What Jesus has set free, is free indeed!

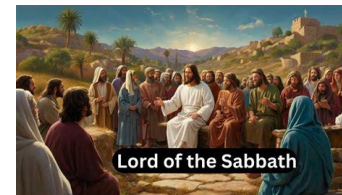
Jesus identified the cause of her affliction and that was Satan. Jesus rebuked the influence in this woman's life and set her free. He is waiting to do the same thing for you. He wants your emotional baggage to be lifted. He wants to set you free from the isolation you may be feeling. Our enemies take delight in keeping us in bondage. If we live in bondage, how can we ever be of any use in the kingdom of God? Jesus has a plan to set you free, if you come unto Him.

C. Jesus Addressed the Critics

As with any situation, there will always be critics. When this miracle occurred, the people in the synagogue began to rejoice with the woman. But the ruler of the synagogue didn't like the way in which Jesus did his miracles. He said that healings should only occur the other six days of the week. He was



saying that the Sabbath day was more important than the needs of the people.



Over and over Jesus ran into this kind of legalism. Jesus reminded them that even the law allowed for an animal to be set free from their stall to drink water and eat on the Sabbath! The religious leaders had formulated their own understanding of what was proper and forced that legalism upon the people. The ruler of the synagogue was more of a keeper of the aquarium than a fisher of men. Jesus was about the Father's business – we should be about the Father's business – helping those around us!

Jesus still has the power to set you free this morning. I cannot set you free. Only by the power of Christ can he enter your situation and allow forgiveness to flow, allow bitterness to dissolve, allow envy to dissipate, anger to transition into peace, infirmities to change into strength. If you are bound this morning, he can set you free!

III. The Transformation She Enjoyed

For this woman, she experienced a transformation inwardly and was healed externally. Life would never be the same for this woman.



She was made whole again and could stand straight again. It was the word that freed her and the touch that restored her. When Jesus touches you, you will never be the same again.



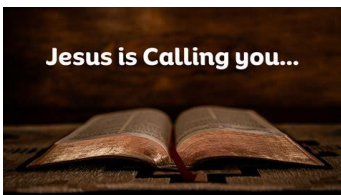
Over the years, I have attended a commissioning service at Campbell University Divinity School. These students are stepping out in faith, trusting the Lord in this new chapter in their lives as they become

equipped to serve Christ. They were deeply touched at one point in their life and they knew Campbell was the place they needed to come to take the next step in their journey of faith. When Jesus touches you, you will never be the same!

This woman was healed externally, but the internal, spiritual transformation was probably more important. Now this woman can lift her head up high. She can rejoin the normal flow of life again. She has replaced the pain of crippling arthritis or other degenerative spinal conditions with words of praise for God. Her pain has changed to praise. Her shame has now become a shout! He touched her and now she is free.



When we genuinely experience freedom in Christ, we can shout praises. We can set aside our scars, pain, and trials and replace the gloom with the glory of God. When the Lord sets you free, you just give Him the praise He deserves.



I want you to know this morning that freedom is found in Christ. You are set free when you come to Jesus. When we experience His word and touch, we are set free.

Did you notice that Jesus made the first move towards this woman? He called her to come to Him. She responded to the call and got the help she needed.

Jesus is calling you to come to Him today. He does not force Himself upon a person. He simply calls us unto Him. He wants to set you free from everything that binds you today. He wants to set you free from hurt and bitterness, wrongs and injustices. Don't let bitterness and anger wedge itself in your heart. He can set you free if you come to Him.

I believe we all have heard the statement, **"Let go and let God."** Have you ever thought about where that idea originated? A college student back in the nineteenth century took six postcards and wrote a large letter on each one of the postcards:



L-E-T-G-O-D. He then put them on the mantelpiece in his room where he was living at school. One evening a draft blew through the window and the "D" blew away. As he picked it up, what he saw seemed to be a message from God, the secret of the Christian life. Only by letting go can you let God carry out His will in your life.⁴

He is calling us to **"Let go"** – and – **"Let God."** Jesus has set us free. He has signed the document of freedom with His blood. Yet are we ready to live as free people?

Jesus really wants us to live free. That freedom can become a home for us if we turn to Him. He is ready to welcome you home.



LET US PRAY

Notes:

¹ Mickey's Funnies – A Peace Funny, October 7, 2026

² Charles R. Swindoll, *The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart and 1,501 Other Stories*, (Nashville: Word Publishing) 2000, c1998.

³ Outline from Sermon Notebook, Luke 13:10-17

⁴ Charles R. Swindoll, *The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart and 1,501 Other Stories*, (Nashville: Word Publishing) 2000, c1998.