



Be Set Free

Luke 13:10–17

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? 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?"

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

August 21, 2016

Thoughts for the Week

Scripture – Luke 13: 10

Luke 13:10 says of Jesus: "And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold"

The first thing we're told is that Jesus was "teaching" when this event occurred. In addition to His teaching Ministry, Jesus also preached at times. Mark 1:14 says: "Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God."

The verb "teaching," being here a present participle, suggests that Jesus' regular method of discourse involved much sharing of knowledge. Of course, He is the Son of God! He knows everything! The Sabbath Day, while being Saturday to us, was the day Jesus regularly attended synagogue. It was His "custom" to do so. We now worship God on the Day Jesus was raised from the dead, Sunday. That's the first day of the week ... in more ways than one!

Let's remember some of the things Jesus did on the Sabbath, things that frustrated the Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees immensely. All these miracles in three short years!

On the Sabbath ... Jesus delivered a man who was possessed of a demon. This happened in a synagogue. Mark 1

On the Sabbath ... Jesus healed a man with a withered hand. Matthew 12

On the Sabbath ... Jesus healed Peter's Mother-In-Law who had a fever. Matthew 8

On the Sabbath ... Jesus healed a man with "dropsy." This is a condition that involves tremendous bodily swelling. Luke 14

On the Sabbath ... Jesus healed a lame man waiting by the pool of Bethesda. John 5

On the Sabbath ... Jesus healed a blind man, one born that way. John 9

And on the Sabbath ... Jesus healed the lady in our scripture for today, the one who was paralyzed with a drawn back. Seven miracles ... on the Sabbath Day! How could that be bad?

Jesus is surely telling us that people are important. Helping the suffering and afflicted and needy were a priority with our Lord! Plus ... Jesus cared for their souls! I think He did not heal simply for the sake of the body. It's going to die anyway! But for the soul and spirit! A human being, saved by God's Grace, will live eternally with his or her Savior!

Our scripture today begins with verse 20 ... "And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold" Now we can add more information ... "And, behold, there was a woman!" And this woman had needs! Needs that Jesus fully intended to meet! He cares!

Or to put it like Peter did: "For He careth for you!"

I am so glad He does!

She Had A One in Christ Moment

She had gotten used to looking at people out of the corner of her eye, by looking up and sideways.

After eighteen years, she could hardly remember any other way of seeing the world. On this particular Sabbath, there was a special excitement at the synagogue, where she regularly went to worship. A Galilean preacher and prophet, Jesus of Nazareth, had arrived in town and would be teaching there. She and the others in town had heard reports about Jesus--how he talked about God's reign arriving soon and how he healed sick people. She was not sure how many of the rumors to believe, but she was trying not to get her hopes up. Her life already had too many disappointments to count.

When she entered the synagogue, the place was abuzz. As Jesus began to teach, however, the room was hushed. Moments later, his words turned from teaching to invitation. He had caught her eye--no mean feat, given that he had to lean over and incline his head to do so. "Come here," he said to her. She slowly made her way to the front of the assembly.

What happened next amazed the whole congregation. "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When this man, Jesus, spoke those words and put his hands on her broken, bent body, she felt power surge through her. Without hesitation, she straightened her once crooked back. She stood tall and praised her God.

We hear the compassionate tone in Jesus' defense for healing on the Sabbath when he argues from lesser to greater: if compassion is shown to one's animals on the Sabbath by providing them water, "ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?"

First, the synagogue leader's complaint is, on the surface, a faithful reading of the Torah: the seventh day was set aside by God for Israel's rest, and work was prohibited on the Sabbath (e.g., Exodus 31:14). Second, Jesus' response is not a rejection of the Torah rulings about the Sabbath. Instead, he argues *from* legitimate allowances of restricted kinds of "work" on the Sabbath. These kinds of discussions were common in Jewish dialogue regarding the Sabbath. Then Jesus argues *for* healing on the Sabbath based on the great worth of the woman as "a daughter of Abraham" and the appropriateness of healing on the

Sabbath. What better day to heal (bring freedom) than on the Sabbath?