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## The Healing Of An Infirm Woman

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Luke 13:10-17

This particular healing miracle of **Christ** is recorded only by **Luke**, and as in all of the healing miracles of **Christ**; it is a vivid picture of **human need**, and a manifestation of the **grace, power, mercy, and compassion** of **Christ!**

We learn from **verse 10** that this miracle took place on a **Sabbath day**, and there are **seven** such recorded miracles of **Christ**: this being the sixth. **Jesus** healed on the **Sabbath day**, as an occasion to **expose the hypocrisy of the Pharisees**, and to **teach concerning the lawful use of the Sabbath**. Also in **verse 10** it is stated that this particular miracle took place in one of the synagogues where **Jesus** was teaching. **Jesus** often went to the synagogues to teach (**Matthew 13:54; Mark 1:21; 6:2; John 6:59; 18:20**), in fact it was His custom to do so (**Luke 4:16**).

While **Jesus** is teaching in this synagogue; our **attention is called to a certain woman** who was in the synagogue that day; **“And behold there was a woman” (verse 11)**. She was not the only one there, **Jesus** was there. The **ruler of the synagogue** was there (**verse 14**), and other people were there (**verse 17**). But of all the people that were there that day, we are called upon to **“behold” (observe)** this one woman! I am sure, that this woman was very insignificant in the eyes of the people, and unbeknownst to her; **SHE IS THE REASON THAT JESUS IS THERE! SHE IS THE OBJECT OF THE MIRACLE!** This particular miracle is a manifestation of **the loosing power of Christ!**

### I. THE CONDITION OF THIS WOMAN

#### ① Her Physical Condition Described:

She was **“bowed together” (verse 11)**. **SHE WAS BENT DOUBLE AT THE WAIST!** She had been like that for **“eighteen years” (verse 11)**. This woman was **“bowed together”** and **SHE WAS BOUND IN THAT CONDITION; whom Satan hath bound” (verse 16)**. **SHE WAS SHACKLED IN A TERRIBLE CONDITION BY SATAN!** This woman was **“bowed together”** and **“bound”** in that condition, and **SHE WAS HELPLESS; “and could in no wise lift up herself” (verse 11)**. In and of herself **she was powerless!** No matter how hard she tried, and no doubt in a span of **“eighteen years”** she tried, and tried, and tried, but no matter how hard she tried, she was still **“bowed together”** In spite of all her struggles to straighten herself, she remained **“bowed together”** No matter how many times, and no matter how hard she or others tried to straighten her, she remained **“bowed together”** **EIGHTEEN YEARS HAD PASSED AND SHE WAS**

STILL BOWED TOGETHER! As in all the healing miracles of **Christ**, HER PHYSICAL CONDITION IS A PICTURE OF A SPIRITUAL CONDITION! This woman's physical condition is a picture of the condition and life of the **unsaved**, and she is also a picture of the sad state that a child of **God** can succumb to, and become entrapped in.

## ② **The Reason For Her Condition:**

She "*had a spirit of infirmity*" (**verse 11**). She had a physical weakness, a frailty, a disease, a terrible malady that was brought upon her by **Satan!** In **verse 16**, **Jesus** attributed her condition to **Satan**; "*whom Satan hath bound*" THIS WOMAN HAD BEEN SMITTEN OF THE DEVIL! **Satan** in his malice had caused her great agitation! **Satan** in his malice and cruelty had inflicted her with much trouble and affliction! **Satan** in his malice and cruelty had brought many problems into her life! To be "*bowed together*" would cause problems in and complicate every area of her life! To be "*bowed together*" would be a massive obstacle in every area of her life! **Satan**, desiring to destroy and ruin her entangled and bound her in this terrible condition! **Satan** was wreaking havoc in every area of her life, (*physically, emotionally, and spiritually*) and had been doing so for eighteen years!

## ③ **This Woman's Condition Greatly Affected Her Lifestyle:**

Every day for "*eighteen years*" she would awake to this condition! Every day for "*eighteen years*" was a struggle for her, that few would ever understand! Every day for "*eighteen years*" simple every day tasks, because of her condition were very very difficult and bothersome! For "*eighteen years*" everything was an exhausting chore! For "*eighteen years*" her everyday life was greatly hindered! IMAGINE HOW TIRESOME HER LIFE MUST HAVE BEEN! This woman's physical condition; would have **prevented her from looking up;** HER VISION WAS VERY LIMITED, FOR ALL SHE COULD SEE WAS EARTH! This woman, because of her condition, no doubt was considered to be an oddy, and as a result was an object of mockery, ridicule, and maybe even disgust! She probably lived with the pain of rejection every day, and as a result **she had very little joy in her life!** IMAGINE THE GLOOM OF HER LIFE!

## ④ **This Woman's Condition Is Symbolic Of Many Of God's People:**

This woman had "*a spirit of infirmity*" and MANY OF GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SMITTEN BY SATAN! This woman was "*bowed together*" and many of **God's** people though not physically "*bowed together*" THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY BOWED TOGETHER! Many get up every day, not physically "*bowed together*" but spiritually! They go about their daily tasks not physically but spiritually "*bowed together*" They come to the Lord's house not physically but spiritually "*bowed together*" They leave the house of God not physically but spiritually "*bowed together*" Like this woman they go day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year "*bowed together*" THEY ARE BOUND IN THIS CONDITION! This woman was physically "*bowed together*" and as terrible, and as difficult, and as debilitating, and as sad and pitiful as that was TO BE SPIRITUALLY BOWED TOGETHER IS FAR WORSE! Some are "*bowed together*" by

**fear** and **worry!** Others with the terrible **guilt** of **sin!** Some are *“bowed together”* with a spirit of **bitterness!** Others with a bad **spirit** and **attitude!** Some are *“bowed together”* with an **unforgiving** spirit! Others by **envy!** Some are *“bowed together”* with **covetousness!** Some are *“bowed together”* by **selfishness**, and **self-will!** Some are *“bowed together”* with **pride and unbelief!** Some are *“bowed together”* by **hurt** feelings! Some are *“bowed together”* by mishandled **burdens**, and some are *“bowed together”* by **bad decisions!** And **SOME HAVE BEEN IN THIS CONDITION FOR SOME TIME!** Those of **God’s** people who are spiritually *“bowed together”* **struggle with things that should not be a struggle!** They just **shuffle along slowly and painfully**, living in a **spiritual rut!** Like this woman, they who are spiritually *“bowed together”* are **unable to look up**, and **have their gaze constantly upon earth**, and consequently **have no joy in their lives!** And **SATAN DESIRES TO KEEP THEM SPIRITUALLY CONFINED!**

## II. WHAT JESUS DID FOR THIS WOMAN IS A REMINDER OF WHAT HE CAN STILL DO

### ① **Jesus Saw Her:**

*“And when Jesus saw her”* (**verse 12**). He saw her *“bowed together”* Of all the people in the synagogue that day **Jesus took special notice of this woman** who was *“bowed together”* who was **helpless**, and with nothing to offer! **Jesus took notice of this woman** who was imprisoned in a **miserable**, and **helpless** condition! He *“saw her”* **undeserving!** He *“saw her”* with an eye of **compassion** and **mercy!** He *“saw her”* with an eye of gracious **intent** to bless her! The **intent** of the **Lord** in salvation is seen in **election** (**Ephesians 1:4-5**). **THIS IS GRACE!**

### ② **Jesus Called Her To Himself:**

*“He called her to Him”* (**verse 12**). He called her while she was in a *“bowed together”* condition! *“He called her”* while she was in her condition of **bondage, confinement**, and absolute **helplessness!** **HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE!** Notice, *“He called her to Him”* with the **intent** and **purpose** of **blessing her!** *“He called her to Him”* though **she had no merit, nor anything to offer!** **THIS IS GRACE!**

### ③ **She Came To Him:**

Though it is not recorded that she came, it is obvious that she did so! She no doubt struggled her way to where He was, **believing** that He was able to heal her!

### ④ **Jesus Deals With The Root Problem:**

This woman’s root problem was that she *“had a spirit of infirmity”* (**verse 11**). Her **symptom** was that she *“was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself”* (**verse 11**) **Jesus** said to her *“Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity”* (**verse 12**). **SHE HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM THE SATANIC SPIRIT WHICH AFFLICTED HER!** He said to her *“Thou are at this moment released from that which*

binds you” “You have been let go from that which has held you for eighteen years” “You have been set free from that which has confined you for eighteen years” There was **spiritual liberty** for this woman!

##### ⑤ **Jesus Touched Her And Made Her Straight:**

“And He (Jesus) laid His hands on her” (verse 13). THERE WAS CONTACT WITH CHRIST! “And He laid His hands on her” THERE WAS LIFE-CHANGING POWER IN THAT TOUCH! For “eighteen years” she could not straighten herself, no matter how hard she tried, and no matter how many times she tried! For “eighteen years” there was not anyone who could straighten this woman, but as a result of His touch, we read; “and immediately (at once, instantly) she (who was bowed together) was made (caused to be, by a power outside of herself) straight” (verse 13). As a result of an **inward change**; “loosed” THERE WAS A RADICAL OUTWARD CHANGE! She came into that synagogue “bowed together” but she was the object of the **grace, mercy, love, and care** of **Jesus** that day, AND WHAT A DIFFERENCE THAT MADE! She came into that synagogue “bowed together” but she heard Jesus that day! She came into that synagogue “bowed together” but she was drawn by an irresistible power to Him, and He touched her that day “and immediately she was made straight” THERE WAS A MANIFEST OUTWARD CHANGE THAT COULD BE SEEN BY ALL! Just as her “bowed together” condition had affected every area of her life, so being “made straight” affected every area of her life!

##### ⑥ **She Felt Compelled To Praise The Lord:**

“she was made straight, and **glorified God**” This woman, being fully aware of the fact, that she had done nothing to make herself straight, and that this was a work of the **Lord**; SHE GAVE GOD THE PRAISE! SHE HONORED HIM, AND EXALTED HIM BEFORE THE PEOPLE! She came into the synagogue that day “bowed together” but SHE LEFT LOOSED, AND WALKING UPRIGHT, PRAISING AND GLORIFYING GOD ALL THE WAY HOME! And when she got home WHAT A STORY SHE HAD TO TELL! **Eighteen years she had been held in this condition, and Jesus with a spoken word and a touch brought immediate, instantaneous release!** This is said to be “glorious” (verse 17). This was something that was stunning, truly magnificent and marvelous!

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All of this serves as a beautiful picture of the salvation of a sinner. There is the **inability of the sinner**, pictured in this woman’s physical condition. There is the **intent of the Lord to bless (election)**. There is the **call of the Lord Jesus** can still **break the bonds that hold the sinner!** **Jesus** can still **break the chains of Satan, no matter how strong they are, and no matter how long they have held an individual!** **Jesus** can still straighten the “bowed together” **Jesus** can still **make a life-changing difference in individuals!** HE IS THE GREAT EMANCIPATOR!

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