

Read: Luke 13:10-17

THE WOUNDED

Throughout His three years of public ministry, Jesus performed many miracles. These stories remind us that Jesus was in the healing business then, and still is today. Today's presentation is taken from the Gospel of Luke: the woman bent over and crippled for 18 years with a spirit of infirmity.

1

The Gospel writer, Luke, who was a physician, says the woman had a “spirit of infirmity” (NKJV) or a “disabling spirit” (ESV) or a “sickness caused by a spirit” (NASB) or was “crippled by a spirit” (NIV). The

Bible is clear that spiritual warfare exists. (Read Ephesians 6:12). Evil spirits can cause physical maladies; however, there are many instances in Luke's gospel of people being healed of diseases with no mention of a demonic cause. (Luke 4:38-39, Luke 5:17-25) Is all sickness caused by spirits or demons? When did sickness come into the world? (Genesis 2:16-17, Genesis 3:6, Romans 5:12)

2

The scripture says that the woman with the spirit of infirmity had been living with this condition for 18 years. Jesus called her “bound”, and exclaimed, “Think of it!” How do you think she felt, and how might this affect her daily life? Her spiritual life?

3

The story of the woman with the spirit of infirmity is remarkable because it reveals the character of Jesus. Look at Jesus' actions in verse 12: Jesus _____ her, Jesus _____ to Him, Jesus said to her, " _____ from your infirmity." What do these things say about the Character of Jesus? What does that mean for you?

4

Verse 14 says the ruler of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath. Do you think the synagogue leader was just trying to keep order? What does it mean to "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy"? Read: Exodus 20:8-11. How does Mark 2:23-28 apply to this situation? How can we keep the Sabbath holy today?

5

Jesus laid *His* hands on the woman in the story and immediately she was made straight and glorified God. Why was it important that the woman glorified God after she was delivered? Could you imagine responding differently?

6

The Lord called the woman a daughter of Abraham. This formerly invisible woman, known only by her malady, was given a title of remarkable distinction. In a moment, she not only received healing, but she also had her God-given identity proclaimed openly before the crowd in the temple. Read Genesis 12:1-3. What promise did God make to Abraham regarding his descendants? Who are the daughters of Abraham?

7

After the Lord spoke to the crowd in verses 15 -16 His adversaries were ashamed, and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him? Explain the extreme feelings from each group.

Encouragement to take home:

We can take much comfort in the miracle Jesus performed for this woman! In all our troubles Jesus is at hand, and whether our disorders are spiritual or bodily, the word of His mouth and the touch of His hand are ours. If we are “bowed down greatly,” the Son of God with power is near to “heal that which is sick, and to raise up them that are bowed down” (Psalms 38:6; 146:8; Isaiah 61:1). All that concerns His own is of deep concern to Him.