



Liberation From Bondage

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

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It is such a terrible thing to live under bondage because of the limitations it imposes on life. In this miracle, Jesus breaks bondage and set a captive free. In the same way trust Him today to break every yoke of bondage in your life, whether physical, spiritual or psychological.

“And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. 11 And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. 12 And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. 13 And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. 14 And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day. 15 The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering? 16 And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day? 17 And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him” (Luke 13:10-17).

- 1) Jesus continued with His usual custom of attending synagogues on Sabbath days - a prime time for maximising opportunity to meet with, and minister to people, in order to accomplish His mission of seeking and saving the lost (vs 10). Plan your routines to maximise your opportunities for success.
- 2) “And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself” (vs 11). Her source of problem was spiritual. 18 years of bondage could make an-

“Thou art loosed from thine infirmity” (Luke 13:12).

yone to lose hope of any cure. Satan is merciless, and “opened not the house of his prisoners” (Isaiah 14:17). This story brings out astonishing facts! The condition of this woman could have easily become the source of an excuse for not going to a synagogue, but she overcame the excuse and went. Had she succumbed to excuses and missed attendance on this day, she would have missed her moment of miracle. You do not know when your miracle will come, but your faithfulness in service will bring you to your moments of miracles.

- 3) Others did not bring this woman to Jesus nor asked Him to heal her. Neither did this woman - a pointer to the fact that she probably only came to hear the reading of the scriptures. It was Jesus that approached and initiated the miracle for her (vs 12-13). He spoke the word of faith and laid hands on her. God can heal and deliver even before we ask, because He knows your condition and when to initiate a miracle for you out of His great love for you.
- 4) The woman was healed instantly and glorified God (vs 13). What a great relief for 18 years of bondage to be brought to an end so suddenly! God can do anything anytime!
- 5) Legalistic religion of letters without the spirit of love leads to hypocrisy, loss of compassion for humanity and can be very dangerous. Instead of praising God for the wonderful miracle, the rulers of the synagogue criticised Jesus for healing on a Sabbath day! Jesus rebuked and exposed their hypocrisy to the point that they were ashamed. This then released all the people who “rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him” (vs 17). The multitudes are only free to worship God, when the hypocrisies of their rulers are exposed!