

# The DAILY JESUS NEWS #195

## Jesus Addresses Crucial Issues in Discipleship

### Miracle #28: Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman On a Sabbath

Luke 13.10-17

10 Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on a Sabbath, 11 and a woman was there who had been held in bondage by a spirit that made her weak for eighteen years. She was constantly bent over and could never straighten up at all.

12 When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, *"Woman, you are now set permanently free from your disabling weakness."*

13 Then he put his hands on her, and she was immediately straightened up and praised God.

14 Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader was saying to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath."

15 The Lord answered him, *"You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you make a practice of untying your ox or donkey from the stall and leading it out to give it water on the Sabbath? 16 Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound--look at this!--for eighteen years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"*

17 When he said this, all his opponents were being humiliated, and the entire crowd was rejoicing in all the glorious works that he was doing.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	In a Synagogue, Somewhere in Judea
Timeline	October or November (Months 33, 34)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	D. Jesus Minister in Judea and Trains His Disciples
	3. Jesus Addresses Crucial Issues in Discipleship
Title	x. Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman on the Sabbath

#### COMMENT:

Today's reading introduced the only healing miracle in a long section of 32 DAILY JESUS NEWS posts with no other miracles. This does not mean that Jesus was not performing miracles during these roughly 12 weeks (mid-Sept. to mid-Dec.) of ministry in Judea. In fact, Matthew summarized the period like this: *"Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there."* (MT 19.2) Luke deliberately chose to focus on Jesus' discipleship teachings during these months, rather than his healing activities.

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Two things stand out in this narrative. First, Jesus again pointed out the hypocrisy of the leaders. They would routinely do "work" on the Sabbath to water and feed their animals--just to sustain their lives. Yet, they forbid the people from receiving ministry of Jesus on the Sabbath!

They treated oxen and mules with more compassion than people. Yet they were supposed to be leaders. Jesus made their hypocrisy plain.

On the other hand, Luke spotlights Jesus' compassion in his narrative. He noticed the woman, who was seated in an area separated from the men by a partition, reserved for women and children. He knew how long she had been afflicted, and called on everybody to pay attention to it by saying **"Look at this!"** He wanted everyone to see what was so obvious to him.

Jesus knew her physical and emotional pain. Being bent over for 18 years without a physical reason was excruciating. An evil spirit held her in that position. In addition, the emotional trauma of being unable to work normally, and pull her share of the load at home, not to mention being deformed and "different," --constantly made aware of her appearance--it was all a nightmare.

To top it off, she was forced to always look downward, toward the dirt, rather than up to the sky. Her life was ruined by this demon-oppression. She desperately needed to be set free from the power of evil that she could not overcome in her own strength.

Jesus understood everything she had endured for 18 very long years, and felt deep sympathy for her. He was the "Good Shepherd;" a man of compassion.

Jesus also knew that the woman was a true person of faith. He called her a "true daughter of Abraham"--a high compliment indeed. As we saw in the last reading, people around the woman would have tended to judge her as being cursed by God. Jesus was sure to declare that she was actually a joint-heir in faith with Abraham.

Jesus' tenderness and concern for the woman was evident on every level. It is no surprise that he chose to heal her by placing his hands on her body, after speaking it into being. The warmth and love in Jesus' hands were something this woman never forgot.

### APPLICATION:

Jesus came to set us all free from Satan's bondage. He came to **"proclaim freedom for the prisoners, and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's grace."** (LK 4.18B-19)

Jesus' freedom begins to take root in our hearts when we realize that he truly sees, and understands what our bondage has done to us. He does not judge us for how we got where we are. Rather, he long to lead us into his freedom. That only requires faith that he will set us free as we obey his Word, just as he did what he said to this woman.

*What kind of bondage holds you in disobedience today?*

*How will you receive Jesus' power to set you free?*