

Woman, Thou Art Loosed! Part One

“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. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. 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?”

(Luke 13:11-13,16)

Introduction

This article is just a word of encouragement to every person that feels trapped in the earth by their own problems and infirmities. It is something that I am personally meditating on deeply and have great need for in my own life. I felt burdened by the Lord to share it with others simply to bless hearts that are needy and hungry like mine. I pray that the Holy Spirit will use these scriptures to lift us up and out from hopelessness and unbelief into a living faith. May our horizons grow broader and broader as we continually see the incredible vastness of our salvation and the beautiful union into which God has brought us.

The scriptures in Luke 13:11-16 will be our guide throughout this study. As we search out this passage we will see the Lord's great love toward us and His desire to loose us from our bondages, bringing us unto Himself in glorious union. Once again, my desire is not to share a teaching but to break bread together as we seek Jesus with all our hearts.

Part One: Loosed Unto Our Identity From Above

A Spirit Of Infirmity

“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”

(Luke 13:11).

To begin with, we are introduced to a woman who has been in a bad condition for a very long time. Can you imagine what you would feel like if you had been looking down for eighteen years? I know that I would become severely depressed if I continually looked at the earth and myself for that long! It had become so chronic with this woman that her body condition and her walk were disfigured. She was literally crippled up and bound. She was not just sick, but a spirit of infirmity had overtaken her. It is one thing to have an occasional doubt, but a spirit of unbelief will overtake you. Her condition had come to define her essence and controlled her life. She was bound so tightly at this time that she was helpless to lift herself up.

I do not believe the scriptures are random. Jesus walked up to this woman with purpose, and she can become an example that can speak to us right now. Some of us may be struggling or even desperate, but this woman had spent eighteen years in slavery to her condition... and Jesus saw her and walked right up to her! The Lord's eyes did not pass her over as hopeless, but singled her out as an example of hope for us today.

Come Away

*“And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him,”
(Luke 13:12a)*

*“My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land. The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away”
(Song of Songs 2:10-13).*

Before Jesus did anything to this woman He called her unto Himself. Isn't that the heart of Jesus towards us at all times, that we would just be with Him where He is at? He is drawing her attention away from herself and her condition to look toward Him. We may think the highest issue of importance is our terrible condition or the failures that beset us, but the Lord cares about our love and that we are with Him. Before any healing or loosing began, the call from the heart of Jesus was for her to be with Him.

Jesus is calling us out from our “self – awareness” into “union - awareness”. The burden of His heart is for His bride to be with Him, for His Cross has already made it so. Without Him, she is crippled up and helpless. To constantly consider ourselves and situations as if we were separate from Jesus will bow us down in depression. We were not made to function independent from Christ. Abiding separate from the Lord develops a condition that will continue to deteriorate, even as a branch shrivels up if it is not plugged into the vine. There must come a lifting up into Him Who is our source and fullness. Our faith must once again be lifted up from the earth into our true identity as one with Jesus.

The voice of the Lord through His Word is drawing us out from our earth identity unto our true identity in Christ. We can let our attention be lifted up from troubles and infirmities into His fullness. He is calling us to “come away” from knowing ourselves in the earth where we feel and sometimes look so dead and hopeless. His desire is foremost that we leave these things to be with Him. He is not first calling us unto overcoming or healing but unto Himself. He is not our escape from problems, but our greatest love that is better than life! The Lord our husband desires to usher us out of ourselves and unto union with Him. He is calling us back to our true identity that is only found in Him. The scripture declares that we are from above, and not from beneath (Gal. 4:26). The Word of God states that we are dead and our life is now hid with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). We are one with Jesus, and we can let the hearing of faith begin to loose us from cleaving and identifying with the old man and the old earth form. Once again, crippled and bound, Jesus called this woman unto Himself. May we too hear that call and look away from ourselves unto Jesus.

Loosed By The Cross
Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity (Luke 13:12b).

After Jesus brought this woman near, close enough to draw her focus to Himself, He began speaking strong words of liberty. He spoke of her as free, declaring that she was released from her captivity and bondage. His words held authority and reality, and certainly she perceived that they were true. These were wonderful words of life coming from a man who saw her differently than any one ever had before. His eyes saw her, and not her outward infirmity. His heart did not see eighteen years of bondage but a daughter of Abraham, one who was His own and beloved. He was transcending time and situations, speaking from a place in Himself that she had never considered. At the hearing of those words, hope must have dawned for the first time in eighteen years within this woman. And is this not true today for us? Hope rises in us when we hear the living Word of God as it proceeds from the heart of the Lord.

In actuality, the true “loosing” was accomplished at the Cross, but the reality of that finished work must be mixed with faith to become effective in us (Heb. 4:2). The scriptures declare that we have already been planted together in the likeness of His death (Rom. 6:5), and raised up together and made to sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus in His resurrection (Eph. 2:6). Before we can start walking in that we have to first just believe it and receive the good report through the hearing of faith. The preaching of the Cross is the power of God to those who believe (I Cor. 1:18).

It is Jesus Himself that we long for and not just getting help for our needs and temporal problems. True bondage is living separate from Jesus! No matter what infirmity is encompassing us in the earth, we can still abide in Christ! We do not want to be held back from Him by the very things that His Cross already took care of for us. He has died so that we can have the freedom to be with Him in a union that neither height nor depth can dissipate. We must become persuaded that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ (Rom. 8: 38-39). There is a greater loosing from ourselves and the earth

that we can receive by allowing the Lord to awaken us and open our eyes to what is already true in Christ (Eph. 1:18).

As God's words of Life and union begin to dawn in our hearts we will see that we are free to leave the old and love Jesus. We are not bound to past failures but crucified with Christ so that we can walk in newness of Life. We are loosed from our guilt and shame by the Cross of Christ! We are released from our old identity and at liberty to embrace and become fully persuaded of all God has declared us to be in His Son. In Christ we are free from condemnation! We are liberated to love Jesus and not hold back because of self awareness. We can lift up our heads that are bowed down with shame and look up into the face of Jesus and find our acceptance in Him. We are free to look straight into His eyes and declare that we believe we are one with Him based on the finished work of His Cross. Jesus said it... "Woman, thou art loosed." His words of Life need to resonate in our being and fill us until that reality dawns in us with glorious liberty.

Impartation Through Union

"And he laid his hands on her" (Luke 13:13).

After Jesus spoke those words He laid his hands on this woman. In the scriptures the laying on of hands represents impartation. Jesus was not just speaking words to this woman; He was imparting. What she could not do by herself, she could receive through impartation by the Lord. And what we cannot do by ourselves, we can do through our Lord's impartation through union. Jesus does not just sharing teaching with His Church, His words are life giving and we are to partake of them through the hearing of faith.

Greater than Jesus imparting healing to us through laying His hands on us, Jesus imparts all His Life to us through living union. We are not just the objects of His mercy, but the very Body that contains His life. The laying on of hands signified that Jesus was imparting something to someone who was separate from Himself. Yet in the resurrection Jesus does not need to lay hands on His own Body to impart Life. Jesus did something so much greater. He rose us up in Himself as His very own Body, bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. We no longer need a touch from a far away God but an awakening to the fact that we already are one with Him and all His fullness is ours through union. As our eyes are opened to see this glorious reality, then our faith will also be lifted up to access freely all that is already ours in Christ. At this point there are two "loosings" to consider. The first is the day that God raised His Son from the dead with us in Him. The second is the day in which that reality breaks forth in our hearts. In that day we will know that we are in Him and He is in us (Jn. 14:20). When we truly see this, scales will drop from our eyes, dead works will fall away, and weakened hands will be lifted up!

Immediately!!

*"And immediately she was made straight, and glorified God"
(Luke 13:13b).*

The fact that immediately she was made straight shows us that it was not a process of her making herself better. In a moment, as she received His word, she was straightened. In the moment we receive God's Word, what has always been true of us in Christ is made effectual. Because the Cross has already crucified the old and brought forth the new, the work of it is already settled. It is our hearts that need to become settled as our eyes are opened to behold the reality of our union into Christ (Eph. 1:18). Until that happens we will continually be "bent over" considering our own condition outside of our true identity as one with Jesus.

To walk stooped over and bowed down to the earth is like having a dark shroud over us that blocks out the light of the Son and keeps us smothered in an environment of darkness. It is crippling to live like that. The problem comes more from this horrible shroud than the symptoms it produces of depression and illness. It's time to cast off that heavy garment and turn towards the Son. Our minds can be blinded by seeing things in the darkness of our own understandings out from the environment of a shrouded heart. We are to look into the Word and into the face of the Lord with an uncovered, unveiled face! The scriptures in II Cor. 3:16-18 say that when the heart turns towards the Lord, a veil that has been covering it over is taken away so that we can behold the Lord. Now that is true liberty, to behold the glory of the Lord and be changed into that same image by the Spirit of the Lord!

We can spend eighteen years watching our body cripple up and our situations get worse, or we can let hope begin to arise in our hearts that our eyes can be opened by God to behold wonderful things, things pertaining to life and union in the Son wherein our true identity is hid. Like a little flower that is withering up and dying from lack of sunlight, some of us need to turn our hearts towards Jesus and lift up our heads to the Son and receive His light. In His light we shall have light, and in His face we shall behold a whole new reality. It is a reality that we do not have to earn or make real, only enter into by faith. It is ours already, and He is calling us to come away and be with Him there. At any moment, with the turning of our hearts, we can choose to abide in Christ. "Immediately" she was straightened. Our access is through faith by grace, not works (Rom. 5:1-2). Right now, this moment, even today is your day of salvation. All of the heavens and God Himself will welcome you home to your true abode in the Son! Come away and lift up your eyes to receive by faith the good report of what the Cross of Christ has accomplished! We can hear the words of Jesus and IMMEDIATELY be translated out from our old identity unto oneness with the Son.

It Is All About Jesus And His Needs

More than words, can you hear the heart of Jesus calling you unto Himself? He wants us with Him, dwelling in union and abiding in His bosom, in Christ. It is not for ourselves that we do these things, but to care for the Lord we love. He needs us, He wants us and His desire is towards us. It can be easy to sometimes forget that we are not some crippled up person struggling through life on earth all by ourselves. We are members of the glorious Body of Christ's resurrection. We are not seeking Jesus for truths that will minister to our aching limbs and stooping backs. We are coming to Him as His Bride and Body, seeking that He would not be crippled up by our lack of receiving His Life. He

needs to be warmed and covered by that which is His own flesh and bones. What we will not do for ourselves, we can do for Jesus. Let love for Him draw us out of ourselves and into Him that we might care for His needs. ***

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