**MIRACLE SERIES #14-(Luke 13:10-17)-"Why don't you straighten up"! (What grace can replace)**

**Intro**: **In 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation was signed into law abolishing slavery...but for many years thereafter, black men and women continued to live in slavery! And sadly, many believers in this room are like the slaves in Civil War times. All the official documents have been signed, all the legal matters have been taken care of. God has accepted the “*emancipation proclamation*” made by Jesus on Calvary, when He said, “*It is finished*”. In Christ, we have been set free forever! We are no longer in bondage to our sins, our past, our guilt, or anything else that we might name. Yet, we still live in bondage because we will not accept the freedom available to us in Jesus.**     This passage is all about how Jesus can set us free. As we watch Him deliver this sick woman from the bondage of her sickness, we get a picture of what He can do for us, if we will come to Him. Perhaps this will be the church service when you identify that which binds you and you get free from it forever!

  I. V. 11, 16 **THE TORMENT SHE ENDURED**

A. **She Was Afflicted Physically** This woman's body was bent double at the waist and every day was a struggle for her. She found herself in a physical condition that prevented her from looking up. She could not, by her own power, overcome her condition. **Sadly, many have found themselves in a spiritual state in which they cannot look up either! -(Are you always seeing just the DOWN SIDE of things?)**

B. **She Was Attacked Spiritually** - **Verse 16** lets us know that this woman was an Israelite and a believer. Yet, she is under the attack of the devil! Satan has bound her and has caused her body to be broken by her affliction. (**Note**: Even saved people can be attacked by the devil!) **We need to understand that no saint of God can be demon possessed! Jesus did not cast out any demons here. He merely spoke to her condition. She was not demon possessed, she was demon oppressed! Most of the time, our illnesses are just that which is part of the normal human experience. Don't blame every cold on the devil**. ***The point is, she was BOUND or RESTRICTED by this!!! Is there something that RESTRICTS yours life? Some sin? Bitterness? Temptation? Hatred? Unforgiveness? Guilt? Addiction? Lust? Envy? Greed? Religion? Fear? Worry? Finances?***

C. **She Was Affected Socially** **- No doubt, because of her condition, this woman was considered to be part of a freak-show! She was an oddity to be laughed at and mocked by children. She was an outcast and was probably unwanted, unloved and uncared for. She was the kind of person you would avoid on the street. (Note: She knew the pain of rejection! Some of you are afflicted in that manner!)**

In spite of her problem, she is one of the most powerful pictures of faith an faithfulness in the New Testament. She has been in this condition for 18 years! If she has been to the synagogue every Sabbath for those 18 years, she has attended some 1,000 times! She has been sick for 18 years. She has not been healed, still she believes in God! She prays, but even when it seems like God isn’t going to answer, she remains faithful. She comes to the services, in spite of the fact that no one would think a thing about her if she did not. She had suffered for years while God had only watched, still she remained faithful! **What a rebuke she is to the mentality that abounds today! If we have a headache, we run to the medicine bottle and knock ourselves out. She was bent double, yet she came to the house of God to worship! We allow the slightest bump in the road of life to derail us and cause us to want to throw in the towel. She realized the truth that God was worthy of her worship, whether He even touched her or not! -(Are you and I THAT committed?)**

 II. V. 12-17 **THE TOUCH SHE EXPERIENCED...She was "loosed to look up"!**

The Bible says in **verse 12**, “***He saw her***”. Jesus went to the House of God to worship. He knew that genuine worship involved more than merely sitting in one’s place. ***Worship was more than an experience of the head. It was an experience of the heart that found reaction in His hands!*** You see, too many come to church, sit in the pew, shift their brain into neutral and glide through the service, neither moving or being moved by what they experience. Genuine worship occurs when our belief moves from our head, down to our hearts and then out through our hands, **James 1:27. (Time spent in church that doesn’t move your heart and motivate your hands is not worship, it is just time spent in church!)**

A. **She Received A Compassionate Word** - When Jesus saw her, He called her to some to Him. When she had struggled her way to where He was, He spoke to her. He called her “***Woman***”. What a word of compassion! Here was a woman whose beauty had long since faded. People did not see her as a woman, but as a freak, an object of mockery, pity and probably disgust. Yet, Jesus saw her as a woman! Others may not have recognized her significance, but Jesus did. He loved her like she was! (**Note**: No one around you might recognize your value, but Jesus does!) **Then He spoke the words that must have thrilled her soul, “*Thou art loosed from thine infirmity*”. What she had tried and failed to do, Jesus did with a word! What she or anyone could never could have accomplished, Jesus did with a word!** B. **She Received A Comprehensive Work** - This miracle that Jesus performed for this woman was ***Prompt***, ***Perfect***, ***Public***, ***Permanent*** and it was ***Personal****!*

1. **He Affected The Cure** - After Jesus spoke, He touched her and immediately she stood gun barrel-straight! Jesus can straighten you out!!!

2. **He Attacked The Cause** - This woman’s affliction was caused by Satan. Jesus rebuked the influence of the devil in her life and set her free!

3. **He Addressed The Critics** - When this miracle occurred, the people in the synagogue began to rejoice in **verse 17**. However, the ruler of the synagogue told the people that they could be healed any of the other six days of the week. He was implying that the Sabbath was more important than the needs of the people! Jesus rebuked this idea and merely told this man that he was placing the needs of animals above the needs of people! Jesus called the man a HYPOCRITE!

 III. V. 13 **THE TRANSFORMATION SHE ENJOYED**

A. **She Was Healed Externally** - Life would never be the same for her again! Her condition had forever been changed! She was whole, she was straight, and she was free from the bondage of her condition.

B. **She Was Healed Emotionally** - This poor, shamed, broken woman stood up straight and began to praise the name of Jesus Christ. Her pain had been replaced with His praise! Her shame had been replaced with a shout! The verb here indicates that her praise was on going in nature.

**C. She was Healed Eternally** -Her praise indicated an inward conversion of faith to God!