

Title: *Jesus, The Bondage Breaker*

Scripture Reading: *Luke 13:10-19*

¹⁰ 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.

¹⁸ Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it?

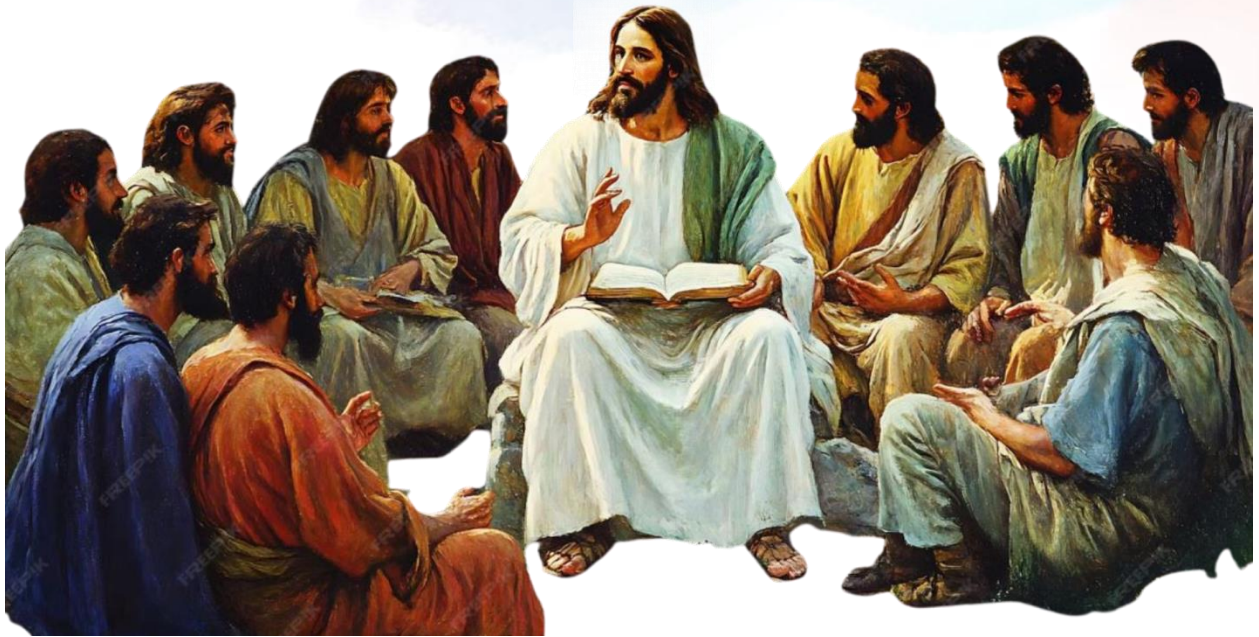
¹⁹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it.

This was a different Sabbath for that little Jewish Community – a Sabbath unlike any other Sabbath they had experienced. This story was written, so we can believe, increase the level of our faith in Jesus, experienced the breaking of bondages in our life.

Verse 10 tells us that now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. You will notice the Jesus goes from synagogues to synagogues on the Sabbath. Luke 4:16 says, 'as His custom was,' clearly indicated that Jesus regularly went to worship. This teaches us consistency, in church attendance. Even Jesus did not skip gathering with God's people. Of course, for the Jews it is the synagogue. For the Christian it is the church. The Jews go to the Synagogue on the Sabbath (Saturday).

We go to church on Sunday. What can we learn from this portion of scriptures?

1. *Jesus, the Great Teacher*



Luke 4:15-19 says,

And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Luke 4:15 says, 'And he taught in their synagogues (plural).' It was the custom of Jesus to go to the Synagogue. If Jesus needs to go to synagogue, you need to go to church. What did he do in the Synagogue. He read from the Torah, the Word of God. Not only did he preach. He demonstrated it. The same should be the word preached from the pulpit. We must demonstrate it. Why? To set at liberty those who are captive. So that people can experience miracles.



There was a supernatural application of the words of Jesus in real life situation at that moment. This is what should happen in the church. The texts Jesus read from, point to the function of the synagogue as well as the church today. The texts is a prophetic message for the church. Jesus intentionally finds a specific prophecy from Isaiah 61:1-2. Because it is a promise of what God would do for the church, for the people who come to church. Why? Because there will be an anointing for the task. This is a declaration of mission and anointing. Each line reveals a different part of Jesus' mission (to the church):

- The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: there will be an anointing.
- To preach the Gospel to the poor: Jesus offers salvation, forgiveness, and hope in the church.
- To heal the brokenhearted: restore those wounded by sin, loss, or despair. Jesus mends lives. He forgave, comforted, and restored.
- To proclaim liberty to the captives: set people free from bondage. Freedom from guilt, fear, mental health issues, demonic oppression and even freedom from demonic possession.
- Recovery of sight to the blind: physical and spiritual sight. Jesus healed and open spiritual eyes to truth.

- To set at liberty those who are oppressed: deliverance from injustice and spiritual chains: He broke the power of Satan and oppression.
- To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord: refers to the Year of Jubilee, a time of freedom and restoration. Jesus brings ultimate Jubilee – forgiveness, release, and a new beginning. The acceptable year of the Lord has been in operation for 2000 years.

2. Satan, the Tormentor



Verse 11 says, 'behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. I do not see bent over people in the Philippines. But I saw a lot of bent over woman in Singapore.



A sad sight. There is a spiritual truth of bend over women in Singapore. You can call it a prophetic picture. There would be a stirring in my heart when I saw them. I mean they are old and yet bent over. To be honest, I am troubled by the sight. If I am troubled. How much more is God troubled.

The interesting part is that I see them only in Singapore, a first world country and I seldom see one in the Philippines, though a third world country. It reveals profound truth about bondage. This woman had been bent over for 18 years – note the length of the bondage. She was unable to stand upright. Her physical condition mirrors a spiritual reality.

- Bent over: burdened, oppressed, unable to look up to heaven. I think in the Philippines, when you are in trouble, you go to a catholic church (though imperfect church) and look up to heaven. In Singapore, when they are in trouble, they don't turn

to God. They depend on their own effort and find solution. Even Christian. To ask for help is a shame in Singapore. It is all self-effort. If they cannot find solution, they take their own lives or they isolate themselves from society. Amidst the economic activity in Singapore, many Singaporeans live isolated lives. It is a very common news to hear of single, old senior citizens, who lived alone in their apartment, died and they are only discovered when four smell spread outside the apartment.

- 18 years: long season of bondage or suffering
- Could in no way raise herself up: represents humanity's inability to free itself from sin or spiritual oppression and even demonic possession.

I do not see bend over people in the Philippines. But I see obesity among the people, especially Iloilo City. It is another prophetic picture. It reflects the inner life: a heaviness of spirit, burdened desires, or unchecked appetites. It symbolizes overindulgence, spiritual sluggishness, and unprocessed pain (hurt that one has not faced up to and not healed.)

Jesus later says in **verse 16** that Satan had bound her (Jesus points to us the culprit) – this was not just a medical problem, but spiritual bondage. Her acute scoliosis was not just a natural condition but a spiritual one. One of the things that is always clear about the stories of Jesus in the Gospels is that while He is good and went about

doing good, there is however, an enemy who is the author of sickness and suffering.

Verse 16 says, 'So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound – think of it – for 18 years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath.' If Jesus was not there, and the woman did not come to church (synagogue), Satan would have kept her bound until the day she died.

There are millions, even in the church that has been kept bound for decades until they went to the coffin. It is a very sad thing. That is how cruel the devil is. He will never let you loose. Jesus has to open our eyes to the fact that not everything that happens on earth is God's will (not everything that happen to you is God's will) – there is another agent at work.

Jesus said, in **John 10:10** that Satan has come to 'kill, steal and destroy.' Understand the purpose of Jesus that came to earth 2000 years ago. **Acts 10:38** says, 'Jesus went about healing all who were oppressed from the devil because God was with Him.' For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil.'

When Pastor Lily gave the spiritual download last Sunday of Lazarus, even though, told by Jesus to come out of the grave, He came out bound. When Lazarus came out of the tomb still bound, it was not a mistake – it was a message. Those graveclothes represent the old life, the habits, thoughts, bondages, fear, and limitations of the past

lives that cling to a person even after they are spiritually raised to life. There are many in this condition in the church.

That is how smart Satan is. We are born again, yet we are still restricted by past behaviors or even fear. We cannot walk fully in a new purpose. We cannot see clearly; our spiritual vision still limited by the past. And we are bend over like that woman for years, unable to break free. Throughout the four Gospels, Jesus identified the various bondages (through deliverance of specific individuals), the specific spirits of infirmity behind certain conditions:

- **A mute person.** Jesus healed several mute people and each time. A mute spirit represents Satan's attempt to stop God's people from declaring truth, worship or witness. Speech symbolizes authority and creative power. Humans made in the image of God are given the power of words. Yet today, we are not physically mute, but we don't use the power of the Word of God to breakthrough.
- **Someone who was blind.** This mirrors the condition of the soul, unable to perceive truth or recognize God. You are in church for so long, yet, still cannot perceive truth. Blindness symbolizes ignorance, unbelief, and separation from God's revelation. This is so true concerning many of us. It takes an anointing to break the chain.
- **The madman in Gadara.** He was known as a demoniac of Gadara. He was also called the man possessed by legion. This

describes the condition of a soul tormented by demonic bondage – emotionally shattered, spiritually isolated, and self-destructive. It speaks of mental issues among the people, even in the church. A legion was about 6000 soldiers. Legion represents many layers of bondage – fear, addiction, anger, lust, shame, guilt – all under demonic influence. Then the Word of Christ confronts this power of demonic oppression. Demons obey because Jesus' authority is absolute. I challenge those who are in this condition, just take a little faith (even a mustard seed of faith), let out an inner cry in your soul for help. Deliverance starts when a person, however broken, turns to Jesus. Just a mustard seed of faith is enough.

- **Jesus rebuked fever.** Fever is often associated with a consuming heat, representing the distress of the body and spirit. It reflects something burning within – not from the fire of God's presence, but from affliction, sin, or judgment. When a soul is distant from God, it becomes inflamed with unrest – anger, lust, fear, anxiety – all spiritual fevers. How did Jesus heal Peter's mother of fever? Jesus has to enter the scene personally. Likewise, fever healing begins with His presence. When Jesus steps into (Peter's house) our house, the environment changes.

Now we have the story of a woman suffering in absolute torment and oppression for 18 years. She was important to Jesus. You are important to Jesus today. Jesus called her 'a daughter of Abraham.' This the only time in Scripture that Jesus calls a woman, 'a daughter

of Abraham.’ That title was not casual. It was covenantal. People in this church. Listen to the cry of God. You are ‘sons of Abraham.’ You have a covenantal relationship with God because of Jesus. What is the meaning:

- You belong to the covenant family of God
- You have a right to God’s promises
- You are an heir of divine blessing through faith.

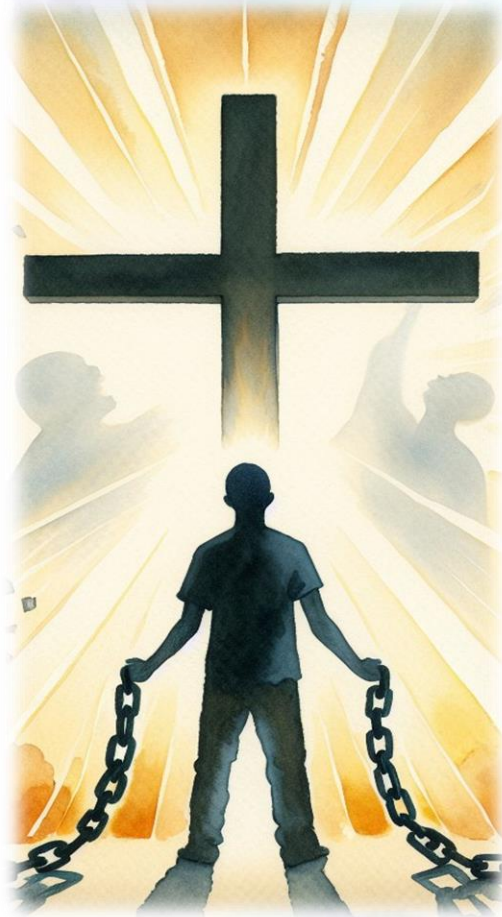
Jesus was not just describing her nationality. He was declaring her covenant identity. The bent over woman was not just a healing story – it was a revelation of identity. She was a daughter of Abraham, but she needed to experience her covenant freedom. Church – You are not defined by your bondage – you are defined by your belonging. And because you belong to God, you have a right to be loosed in whatever bondages, captivity you are in right now. If there is another title for this sermon:

It should be ‘**from bound to blessed.**’ Jesus came to set us, God’s covenant children free – not only from sin, but every bondage that keeps us from standing upright in faith and purpose of life. Our present condition is symbolic of how sin, shame, and the enemy bend people down, unable to look up to heaven. Today many are spiritually bent:

- Bent by guilt from the past
- Bent by fear of the future
- Bent by burdens of life

- Bent by mental health issues
- Bent by oppression of the enemy

But your bondage doesn't have to be permanent. It doesn't have to remain with you until the day you die. No bondage is permanent when Jesus entered that synagogue that day. And Jesus is here in our midst.



- **Others saw her (your deformity)** – Jesus see her (your destiny)
- **Jesus didn't wait for her to call out** – He called her first. And Jesus is calling you out today.
- **That is grace** – God takes the initiative

So, ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?” Think of it! Firstly, she was definitely more important than an ox or a donkey. Secondly, she was a daughter of Abraham: she had covenant rights!

The leader of the Synagogue wanted to keep the Law. That is the problem of the church. That leader of the church (synagogue) said, ‘You must obey the commandment of God, then you can be blessed.’ The real problem that day was not the bent woman, but the leader of that synagogue. Because in that same Law there was also a covenant with the seed of Abraham that needed to be kept. It was not right for a daughter of Abraham to be oppressed by Satan. Satan is an outlaw.

The leader of the Synagogue was concerned with keeping the Law but in **Matthew 23:33** Jesus said that there are weightier matters of the Law: Justice, mercy and faith. What had happened to mercy? In another passage, in the context of an argument of what was ‘lawful’, Jesus said: **Matthew 9:12-13** - ... “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

Verses 12 tells us that when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.” **Verse 13** says, ‘And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.’ One look, one invitation, one

word, one touch and she was free! Jesus is the bondage breaker! It is fair to assume that this woman must have attended that Synagogue possibly all her life. It amazes us to think that for 18 years, that bondage was allowed to stay there - that evil spirit was allowed to remain undisturbed and unchallenged.

3. The mustard seed of faith.

Luke 13: 18-19 says, 'Then said he, unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it.'



What you need today is just a mustard seed of faith. The mustard seed is tiny – one of the smallest known to His listeners. This image carries a significant spiritual truth. Just exercise a smallest of faith,

believing the smallest of truth (that you are a child of God, and you have a covenantal relationship with God and God has a conventual promise to fulfill to you. God has planted a seed inside the believer today and nurtures it with the Word of God. Yes, your little faith seems insignificant, but do not despise its small beginning. Find comfort in your faith and today.

There was another incident where Jesus went to another synagogue and 'there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out (the evil spirits in that man), saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are — the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" and when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him.' 27 Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this?"

The church should be a place where miracles happen, where Jesus moves like in the days of the Bible because "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." We should never accommodate or even tolerate Satan and his works. We should confront him in the authority of the name of Jesus. Of course, the people in the Synagogue didn't have the name of Jesus up to that point, but we have. I believe today that Jesus is here. If only we believe, that we are the child of God, no matter the seriousness of the oppression or possession, burdens, fear, mental issues, physical ailment, as sons of Abraham, we should press in with our issues, believe the Word of God and exercise authority and command the bondage to leave us, I

believe miracles will take place. I believe you have to exercise faith. And I am asking only for a mustard seed of faith. That is enough. Come to Jesus. You are a covenant child of God. God wants to set you free.

Verse 12 says, 'When Jesus saw her, He called her to Him.'

Today Jesus said the same, 'Come here.' Before any kind of healing, Jesus invited us to respond. Bondage is broken not only by divine power, but by personal response. When Jesus calls you, you must step forward, even in your infirmity, bondages, sickness, oppression, demonic possession. That step of faith opens the door for deliverance. The bible says, 'And he laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight.' Touch is Scripture always signifies transfer of divine life. Jesus' hands released what His words declared. Today, you need the touch of God. His touch comes with both authority and intimacy. When the Word (which I have just preached) and the Touch come together, deliverance is complete. That is how the bondage breaker works. He restores instantly what life deformed gradually.

In conclusion, Jesus is still the bondage breaker. When Lazarus was wrapped with the graveclothes, he was let loose by Jesus. Jesus too was wrapped in that graveclothes and the tomb was covered by a big stone. Lazarus died of fever. Jesus died not of fever but for the sins of mankind. So that when that Sunday came, Jesus disappeared from the graveclothes. He was resurrected so that today whatever

sins you have committed can be forgiven if you just confess and repent. And He has given us the power through the Holy Spirit to be freed from any demonic oppression, possession, bondages, sicknesses, mental issues, cancers etc. Just come to Jesus. He is the bondage breaker.