

Pastors Thoughts of the Week

*And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her,
Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. Luke 13:12*

But now see here a sudden interruption to His lesson. Jesus spies a woman in dire exigency. It is so much like the Savior to prioritize this woman's need and thus puts the sermon on pause as His great heart of compassion draws him towards this pitiable victim of Adam's curse. No question passes the lips of the Heavenly healer as was sometimes the case. He needn't ask "what would you have me to do?". It is not in response to her petition for a blessing for she is there for no other reason but to absorb the ministry of His teaching. She is resigned to live with a burden she has borne for 18 years. But the Master came to set at liberty those who were bruised and so He lays His hands upon her and dispenses the healing while dispersing the curse! Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. In a word her body liberated, her life was changed.

We must pause here and take in the spiritual implication of this miracle. Here we have a woman bearing a heavy burden for many years. She is stooped and bowed down. Everyday the burden seems heavier and harder to bear. This bespeaks the burden of sin that weighs us all down-which innervates and vitiates and so sapping us of the joy of life. Jesus knew that man living under the weight of sin needed a deliverer and so he exclaimed "come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest". Sisyphus, a figure of Greek mythology who was condemned to repeat forever the same meaningless task of pushing a boulder up a mountain, only to see it roll down again. Life without Christ and the hope of heaven is a burdensome weight. In 1949 The French existentialist Albert Camus wrote the Myth of Sisyphus in which he compares the absurdity of man's life with the situation of Sisyphus. That life is inherently devoid of meaning and consequently absurd, but humans will nevertheless forever search for meaning. From a Christian perspective, John Bunyan in his Pilgrim's Progress depicts the burden of sin by describing a load on the back of his protagonist Christian

"Up this way, therefore, did burdened CHRISTIAN run; but not without great difficulty, because of the load on his back. that just as CHRISTIAN came up to the cross, his burden loosed from off his shoulders, and fell from off his back, and began to tumble; and so continued to do till it came to the mouth of the sepulchre, where it fell in, and I saw it no more. Then was CHRISTIAN glad and lightsome, and said, with a merry heart, "He hath given me rest by his sorrow, And life by his death."

And so in our text the woman who bore the heavy burden was loosed by one touch from the Great Physician *Psalms 55:22: Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee:*

For every Christian the sin burden was lifted at Calvary. Our soul has been liberated from the ill and odious effects of the curse though the flesh remains subject to the corruption of Adam's sin. The glad day is coming for complete deliverance from this corruptible carcass that still must bear up under the onslaught of the devil's curse.

Woman thou art forever loosed and now empowered to live that straight life of godliness! Overcoming, victorious living is the birthright of every believer. We are not to cower and wither under the seductions of the evil one as some pusillanimous weakling. Be Strong in the Lord and the power of his might!

Have a blessed day .

Pastor

Faith cometh by hearing: and hearing by the word of God Romans 10:17