



August 26, 2025

"On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, 'Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.' Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God." (Luke 13:10–13)

This story is one of the most tender moments in the Gospels. We meet a woman who had been bent over for eighteen long years. We can picture her—always looking at the ground, unable to stand tall, perhaps overlooked by others, maybe even

forgotten. But then Jesus saw her. He noticed her. He called her forward. He touched her. And she was healed.

For those of us who live with aches, pains, and limitations, this story is good news. It reminds us that Jesus sees us too. He notices when others might not. He calls us by name and reaches out with compassion. Even if our bodies are not made whole in this life, we are still lifted up by his love. Spiritually, he straightens us and gives us hope.

Notice also how the woman responded—she *praised God*! Her healing turned into worship. That's a gift we can share as well. Even in our struggles, we can lift our eyes and voices to praise the One who sets us free from fear, loneliness, and despair.

Sometimes healing is physical. Sometimes it is the peace and strength God gives inside our hearts. But always, Jesus notices us and calls us his own.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for seeing us, for calling us forward, and for touching our lives with your love. Straighten our hearts where they are burdened, lift our spirits where they are weighed down, and help us to praise you each day. Amen.

Blessing:

May the Lord who sees you, loves you, and lifts you up give you peace and joy today and always. Amen.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Linda

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