

## **Men And Women Of The Bible: Crippled Women**

Luke 8:42-48; Luke 13:10-13 ~ November 11, 2020

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*As he went, the crowds pressed in on him. <sup>43</sup> Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. <sup>44</sup> She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. <sup>45</sup> Then Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you." <sup>46</sup> But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me." <sup>47</sup> When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. <sup>48</sup> He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."*

*<sup>10</sup> Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." <sup>13</sup> When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.*

### **Healing:**

- I put these stories together because they talk about two aspects of healing. The woman with the hemorrhage was physically healed, and that led to her emotional and spiritual healing. The woman with the spirit was healed physically, but was released from emotional and spiritual bondage first. She was physically healed because she was spiritually healed.
- Both are Biblical, and both are important for us to understand.
- We most likely know or have heard of someone who has had a true miracle of God—something that was broken is now fixed when there was no human way to do it. Our first story highlights that kind of healing. The doctors couldn't help her, and she was an outcast because of the laws regarding cleanliness and blood at the time. Jesus healed her, instantly, miraculously, simply by being there.
- But we're not as familiar with healing as we get more untangled from Satan's lies and embrace the truth of God. Our second story had to do with getting rid of the spirit that had been keeping the woman hunched over and unable to walk. She was unable to physically walk, but it also paralyzed her walk with God. Something spiritual was keeping her down, in a sense.

### **Woman With The Hemorrhage**

- Blood was unclean and since she was constantly bleeding and was not allowed to participate in religious or social events.
- Her physical problem affected her spiritually—she was beginning to dabble in practices that were not in God's Word.
- The public confession that Jesus asked the woman to give was not to embarrass her, but an opportunity for her to confess Christ and glorify God. Had she simply disappeared back into the crowd, she would not have met Jesus personally or heard his words of comfort. She had to realize that she was worth Jesus' time and energy.

### **Crippled Woman In The Temple:**

- The story of the crippled woman is still a healing story, but it is the opposite of the woman with the hemorrhage. The physical ailment stems from the emotional and spiritual issue. She was with other people, because her illness didn't make her ceremonially unclean. She worshipped, but she still was oppressed by something.
- It was the Sabbath, a time when no work was to be done. Jesus was teaching in a synagogue.
- There was a woman there who was listening to Jesus. She had been crippled for eighteen years and was bent over.
- Jesus discerned the woman had physical problems that were as a result of a spiritual issue. He called her to the center of the synagogue, which was very unusual. Women usually stayed in the side area of the synagogue, while the men were in the middle.
- Jesus told her that she was free from whatever was oppressing her. Immediately she was able to straighten her body. She could look upward, and she could see forward. Her body was healed because her spirit was healed. Her immediate response was to praise God.

### **For Us Today:**

- What is our spiritual ailment? How are we like the woman who is bent toward the ground, unable to walk with Jesus in the way we want to?