

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

THE FREEING WORK OF JESUS

Luke 13:10-13 “Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your disability.” (Read Luke 13:10-17)

The woman in today’s devotional verses, like a prisoner, had her freedom greatly restricted by a disability. Imagine living for eighteen years with the type of disability described here by Luke. Imagine the woman’s reaction first at Jesus’ recognition of her and then the healing she received from Him. Jesus set her free from her prison . . .

The ruler of the Synagogue was also imprisoned. He lived under the man-made restrictions of laws created by his fellow leaders over the centuries. To think he or his fellow leaders would free their ox or donkey from thirst but not permit Jesus to free the woman of her disability all because it was the Sabbath day. They rejected Jesus and the freedom He offered them from their self-imposed imprisonment to laws, rules and regulations.

Jesus was sent by God to free sinners from the imprisonment of their sins. He came to release them from the impossibility of following laws, rules and regulations in order to earn God’s forgiveness of their sins and a place in heaven. Romans 8:1-2, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.” Jesus taught, “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36)

Jesus is the one promised by God as recorded in Isaiah 61:1-3, “. . . to proclaim good news to the poor. . .to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness . . . to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise

instead of a spirit of despair.” No human being can prevent Jesus from carrying out His fathers will to free you from your prison caused by your sins. Because of the faith He has gifted you in Jesus, He has set you free. You are free indeed. (John 8:36)

Prayer: Open wide the prison doors the world, Satan and my sinful flesh have created for me, dear Jesus. Set me free from my bondage to these evil foes creating in me a clean heart and a new spirit. In Your holy name. Amen.

When to our world the Savior came
The sick and helpless heard His name,
And in their weakness longed to see
The healing Christ of Galilee.

That good physician! Night and day
The people thronged about His way;
And wonder ran from soul to soul,
”The touch of Christ has made us whole!”

His praises then were heard and sung
By opened ears and loosened tongue,
While lightened eyes could see and know
The healing Christ of long ago.

Of long ago: yet living still,
Who died for us on Calv’ry’s hill;
Who triumphed over cross and grave,
His healing hands stretched forth to save.

His sov’rein purpose still remains
Who rose in pow’r, and lives and reigns;
Till ev’ry tongue confess His praise,
The healing Christ of all our days.
(LSB 551)