Lenten Meditations

HEALING AND RESTORATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

Luke 13:10-17

Jesus heals a woman who had been suffering for 18 years. Scripture says she was regularly attending the worship services in synagogue. But still she was not cured. In the midst of all painful life situations she still believes in God, continued to pray and remains faithful to God. She was mainly undergoing three types of painful life experiences.

> *"Woman, you are set free from your infirmity. Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God."*
> *Luke 13:13*

She was afflicted physically. She was in severe physical pain. Her body was bent double at the waist. Surely, everyday was a struggle for her. Her physical condition prevented her to looking up. Her own power could not help her to overcome the condition.

She was affected socially. Because of her physical condition she was alienated from the society. She was considered as an outcast and was probably unwanted, unloved and uncared for.

She was attacked spiritually. This woman was an Israelite and a believer. Yet she is under the attack of devil. Satan has bound her and has caused her body to be broken by her affliction.

Two things mainly happened in her life when Jesus saw and called her.

1. She received a compassionate word.

When Jesus saw her, He called her to come to Him. He called her woman – a word filled with compassion. People did not consider her as a woman of honor, but as a waste, an object of mockery, pity and probably an unwanted one. Yet Jesus saw her as a woman. Even the worshipping community could not have recognized her significance but Jesus did. Jesus sees every one as important, special and worthy in God's sight. The words of Jesus must have thrilled her soul."Thou art loosed from thine infirmity". What she had tried and failed to do, Jesus did with a word. He touched her and immediately she stood straight. No longer she is a target of mockery or joke to anyone.

2. The transformation she enjoyed.

Life would never be the same for her again. Her condition had forever been changed. She was whole; she was straight and was free from the bondage of her condition. This poor, broken woman stood up straight and began to praise the name of Jesus Christ. Her pain had been replaced with His glory. When we experience the touch of Jesus that really breaks the bonds that holds us. Also it frees us from pain and trials of life. Finally our gloom will be replaced with His glory.

Prayer: Lord, help us to experience your compassionate touch so that we could straiten ourselves in the society.

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