

Jesus the Healer

Bent Out Of Shape



SERMON NOTES SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 13:10-17

LUKE 13:10-17 (NRSV)

¹⁰ Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ 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.

¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the Sabbath day." ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

*Some of the questions below are adapted from James Wagner's devotional guide,
The Spiritual Heart of your Health, Upper Room Books, 2002.*

Jesus often got into trouble for doing something good. Have you ever been criticized, judged or ridiculed for going out of your way to help someone? How did that make you feel?

What "spirit" has ever bent you out of shape and severely affected your attitude, health or relationships?

How would it feel to have Jesus recognize your brokenness, invite you to come to him, hear his words of healing, and experience his healing touch?

"Sometimes we get bent out of shape—in our relationships with others, by unkind and thoughtless words; in our personal attitudes toward life and living; in our immature, childish understandings of God. Jesus can and does want to help us. Close your eyes and visualize Jesus calling you forward and speaking to those incredible words you have longed to hear, words that set you straight once more. Allow Jesus to touch the bent and broken placed in your life and make you whole and healthy."

– James Wagner