



## UNTYING SATAN'S BONDS



When Jesus saw her, he called 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... “Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?” (Luke 13: 12-13, 16)

Jesus Christ has power and authority upon all type of evil spirits. He also can heal and set free those who are suffering from all kinds of illnesses in their body or mind. We know we are living in a fallen world where sin and evil can be shown through human sufferings, wars, natural disasters, or even devil’s oppression. Yet, there is power in the name of Jesus to defeat the powers and rulers of darkness. We can win the victory over evil spirits by the power of Jesus Christ. Through faith in his Word and by receiving freedom from all kinds of Satan’s bonds, Christians can proclaim victory in the name of Jesus by untying all people who are under devil’s oppression.

We find this story in the Gospel of Luke which deals with spiritual warfare and the miraculous healing of a crippled woman. It also tells us on how human criticism can be used by Satan to hinder our ministry. As it happened to Jesus in when he was in the synagogue on Sabbath day, it also happens to us when we go to set free those who are oppressed by devil’s bonds. We will face opposition through criticism that, unfortunately, sometimes it comes from religious people. We know that behind all human rejection to our ministry, there is usually an

expression of Satan's powers trying to hinder or discourage God's messengers.

Jesus not only healed that crippled woman from her illness, actually, what he really did was to set free this human being from her misery and oppression. Jesus was showing his power and authority not just to the religious leaders in the synagogue, but he really did use his spiritual authority to untie that woman from Satan's bonds. She was oppressed by heinous evil spirits that have been residing inside her spinal columns making her to walk and to bend over her body in a crippled physical condition. The Gospel's account remarks that she had been crippled by an evil spirit for eighteen years. Jesus pointed out that she was a daughter of Abraham whom Satan had been held in bondage for eighteen long years. Then Jesus asked to the religious leaders, "Isn't it right that she be released, even on the Sabbath?"

When Jesus saw the synagogue ruler's attitude of criticism and indignation, He rebuked him with the power of His word, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water?" His remark was beyond the religious traditions and laws that those religious leaders had made of the real purpose to keep holy the Sabbath. He emphasized that the crippled woman should be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her.

There is a Satan's important purpose in oppressing individuals. He wants to drag back their will into captivity. By doing that, he just wants to put them in slavery. Thus, their soul and body become bound through his power by sending an evil spirit to reside inside them. I don't want to make you think that all deceases are produced by evil spirits; however, you know that is not God's will that his children suffer

illnesses to make them more humble or meek. But because we are living in a fallen world, all human beings, including animals and nature, all are under evil's dominion and oppression. Jesus has come to set free all the oppressed and captives of devil. He announced just at the beginning of his ministry: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Sometimes evil spirits may enter a human body to bury themselves in the very structure of the human frame. Some of them can be acting directly upon the organs and appetites of the body, others upon the mind or intellect, sensibilities, emotions, and affections, and others more immediately upon the spirit. In the human body, they may specially locate themselves in the spinal column, nervous system, and deepest nerve center located in the bowels, the emotional sensibilities, and all organs affected by them, to the cerebral nerve center in the head, the eyes, ears, neck, jaws, tongue, muscles of the face, and delicate nerve tissues of the brain.

Not all kind of illnesses are from evil spirits origin, but sometimes people may give an open door for them when they just become passive in their will. Every time we do not obey God's word we are actually saying to our enemy, that we are more willing to obey his impulses than to surrender to God's will our own will. Because when we are more ready to believe to the Devil's deception, we let our minds to think with passivity. Then, we become more under Satan's dominion by letting him control our will.

Have you ever thought how many times you have believed Satan's lies than God's truth? Since the beginning, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command, all mankind have lived under Satan's bondage. People rather believed Satan's lies and followed his deception instead of obeying God's Word. The result of that voluntary act of disobedience is

what we are suffering now. They might be different kind of illnesses, oppression, and bonds that the devil brings to us if we passively let him control our life.

On the contrary, when we obey God's will, and subject ourselves to his commandments and His Word, then we start actively using our will to make up our minds toward the right direction. Each step we walk forward into God's path of righteousness and light, we live under the blood of the Lamb of God that cleans us out from sin and all selfish and evil desires. We really live in the Spirit's freedom and there is no chance for the evil one to try to control our life.

Jesus Christ has power and authority to untie all kind of Satan's bonds. He has given us the same power and authority that we may proclaim freedom for all those who are the devil's captives as well. We are called to untie Satan's bonds and to set free people that Satan has made slaves of evil spirits.

Christians are the only people who can use Jesus' authority to destroy and to defeat the Devil's evil strongholds. Let us claim this power by calling upon the name of our Lord and King, Jesus our Savior. There is power in the name of Jesus to break every chain and to release those who are oppressed by the devil's bondage.

- Pastor Jaime Farias