

Luke 13:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.

Analysis

Jesus heals on the Sabbath: 'And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself' (καὶ ἰδοὺ γυνὴ πνεῦμα ἔχουσα ἀσθενείας ἔτη δεκαοκτώ, καὶ ἦν συγκύπτουσα καὶ μὴ δυναμένη ἀνακύψαι εἰς τὸ παντελές). This woman had suffered 18 years under demonic bondage ('spirit of infirmity,' πνεῦμα ἀσθενείας), bent double, unable to straighten. Jesus' compassion overcomes Sabbath regulations—He calls her 'daughter of Abraham' (v.16), affirming her covenant status despite physical affliction. His healing demonstrates that the Sabbath's true purpose is liberation from bondage, foreshadowing gospel freedom from sin's slavery.

Historical Context

Jewish Sabbath restrictions had multiplied through oral tradition (Mishnah tractate Shabbat lists 39 prohibited activities). While emergency medical care was permitted, Jesus' critics viewed this chronic condition as non-emergency. Jesus exposes their hypocrisy—they untie animals for water on Sabbath (v.15) but object to liberating humans from Satan's bondage. His argument from lesser to greater (animals vs. humans) follows rabbinic logic while subverting their conclusions. This confrontation exemplifies Jesus' Sabbath controversies throughout His ministry.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' healing on the Sabbath reveal that religious rules must serve human flourishing rather than become ends in themselves?
2. What does calling this afflicted woman 'daughter of Abraham' teach about God's covenant faithfulness even in suffering?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἰδοὺ,	γυνὴ	ἦν	πνεῦμα	ἔχουσα	ἀσθενείας	ἔτη
And	behold	a woman	there was	a spirit	which had	of infirmity	years
G2532	G2400	G1135	G2258	G4151	G2192	G769	G2094

δέκα	καὶ	ὀκτώ,	καὶ	ἦν	συγκύπτουσα	καὶ	μὴ
eighteen	And	G3638	And	there was	bowed together	And	no
G1176	G2532		G2532	G2258	G4794	G2532	G3361

δυναμένη	ἀνακύψαι	εἰς	τὸ	παντελές
could	lift up	in	G3588	wise
G1410	G352	G1519		G3838

Additional Cross-References

Luke 8:2 (Spirit): And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,

Luke 13:16 (Parallel theme): And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

Psalms 6:2 (Parallel theme): Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed.

Mark 9:21 (Parallel theme): And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.

Luke 8:27 (Parallel theme): And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs.

Acts 4:22 (Parallel theme): For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.

Luke 8:43 (Parallel theme): And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any,

Psalms 146:8 (Parallel theme): The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous:

Psalms 145:14 (Parallel theme): The LORD upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.

Psalms 38:6 (Parallel theme): I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long.