

Healing in the Valley!

Scripture used: [Luke 13:10-13 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

This week Pastor Hurmon concluded our message series “Finding God in Silicon Valley”. He showed us how the story of this crippled woman, healed by Jesus after so many years, is just as relevant to us as it was to her. This message overlaps with Mother’s Day, a time to offer praise to the women who have made such an impact on our lives. Jesus singled out this crippled woman for public healing, which broke many rules about a woman’s place in society. Just like women today, she was subject to the conflicting, contradictory expectations of the people around her. Life had “bent her double”, to use another interpretation of the word “cripple”. But Jesus helped her stand up straight, setting her free from the unseen forces holding her back. Jesus offers to place his hands on each of us, just like he did with the woman in that synagogue 2,000 years ago. We just have to accept his invitation to be healed!

KEY POINTS

- 1) **Jesus sees the crippled woman and calls her.** Jesus was a guest lecturer at this synagogue. He could have easily given her sermon and left. Instead he called forward a woman in pain, knowing that this would anger many religious officials. He would heal on the Sabbath, and he would bring a woman up to the front of the congregation.
- 2) **Jesus declares to her “you are set free”.** Society is full of expectations for women. Many of these expectations are confusing and conflicting. If a woman works full-time, she worries that she isn’t enough of a mother to her children. If a woman stay home, she worries that she isn’t fulfilling her own potential outside motherhood. These kinds of expectations weigh on women. This is how they end up “bent doubled”!
- 3) **Jesus models the right behavior to men.** Jesus could do anything, and yet he willingly sacrificed himself. His power and authority are not used to wound others. Instead, Jesus protects and heals. He offers each of us unconditional love. This is the example of Christian strength that Jesus sets for us, which is very different from the violent, macho stereotypes that most men adopt.
- 4) **Jesus demonstrates for women.** Many women have trusted men and then regretted it. There is a deep personal history of pain that comes from being taken advantage of. Jesus is a reminder to all women that men can be trusted. He put his hands on her, and that was the moment that she experienced her healing. A man’s touch can be a blessing.
- 5) **Jesus alone can set us free; He has no substitute.** Good people love to imitate Jesus. He offers us so many examples of the right way to behave in any situation. Right behavior is part of what is meant to be a follower of Christ. But it is not the main thing. Imitating Jesus do not mean we can ever replace him! Only He can set us free from the world. Only He can straighten us up.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - This woman in the synagogue had been “bent double” for 18 years. Do you identify with that feeling? What does it mean to you to be “bent double”?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Jesus picked this woman out of the crowd and called her forward, placing her in front of the crowd. Then he declared her healed, placing his hands on her. By doing this, Jesus broke many of the traditions set in place by the religious authorities of the day. Instead of rules, he offered her a relationship that set her free. Does this freedom appeal to you? What would it look like for you to truly be free, even living in a high-pressure place like Silicon Valley?
- 3) **DO** - In exchange for freedom, Jesus asks for faithfulness. Being faithful means different things to different people. Maybe you want to join [NBCC’s Summer Serve program](#), or maybe it involves praying for someone who has previously hurt you. Ask God for guidance, and He will direct you to an act of service for someone else.