✅ The Spirit of Infirmity

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The Spirit of Infirmity

I. **Introduction**

- **Story:**

1. **The Ministry of Jesus**

- *Act 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and **healing all who were oppressed by the devil**, for God was with Him.*

- *"Oppressed"…katadunasteuo…exercise dominion or authority against, exercise harsh control over, rule over*
  - People can be oppressed by hidden unseen spirit beings that exercise force over them
  - This is a widespread condition…..oppressions by demonic spirits, every culture

- **Jesus Mission was to Proclaim the Kingdom of God**
- **Kingdom: The Government of God, The Rule of a King with all the blessings of it**
  - *"Proclaim"……Gk….Kerusso…to be a herald and proclaim important news announcing the arrival of something significant*
  - *"Captives": ……..Gk.. Aichmalotos……prisoners of war, conquered warriors*
  - *"Deliverance"….Gk…Aphesis……release from bondage or imprisonment*

- **Only a greater spiritual authority and power can bring freedom**
  - Jesus authorised the Church to represent Him and cast out demonic spirits

2. **The Woman With a Spirit of Infirmity**

- *Luk 13:10 Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.*
  *Luk 13:11 And behold, there was a woman who had a **spirit of infirmity eighteen years**, and was **bent over** and **could in no way raise herself up.***
  *Luk 13:12 But when **Jesus saw her**, He **called her to Him** and **said** to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity."*
  *Luk 13:13 And He **laid His hands on her,** and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.*

- *Luk 13:14 But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."*
  Luk 13:15 The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it?
  Luk 13:16 So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"
  Luk 13:17 And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

- **Jesus is teaching in a Synagogue on the Sabbath day**
  - This is a gathering of believers come to worship and hear the Word of God
  - The Elders and Rulers sat in a section isolated from ordinary people
  - There is a woman present who is severely disfigured
- **Jesus miracles reveal the Glory of God ….He is a Supernatural God**

I. **Three Issues the Woman Suffered from:**

- **Physical……..Disfigured, disabled ….visible**
- **Spiritual……..Spirit Infirmity……..invisible**
- **Emotional……..Shame ……..invisible**

1. **Physically Disfigured**

- *Luk 13:11 And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up.*

- She was totally doubled over
- Her spine was severely deformed
- Her face was perpetually towards the ground the earth
- This condition severely impacted every area of her daily life
- She could only walk with a shuffle
- Even getting there was a major effort taking a long time and great perseverance
- "Could not"….she had no power to overcome the problem
- The problem was physical but was rooted in a spiritual issue

2. **A Demonic Spirit of Infirmity**

- The true source of her problem was a spirit of infirmity, a demon.

- **What is a Demon?**
  - Demon is an evil spirit being with a personality and a nature
  - Demons have a will, a mind and make plans how to enter people
  - Jesus taught that they come to steal kill and destroy
  - Jesus also taught that Deliverance is a
    - Clash of two Kingdoms
    - Demonstration of the reality and superiority of the Kingdom of God
    - Confrontation of an anointed representative of God's Kingdom and a demon

- **Peter the Apostle warns believers to be aware of the conflict in the spirit realm**
  - *1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*
    1Pe 5:9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are
    experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

- **What is a Spirit of Infirmity?**
- *"Infirmity"….weakness, frailty, without strength, feebleness, sickness, disease*
  - A spirit of infirmity has an assignment to afflict people with weakness, and sickness
  - Jesus discerned the root of the problem she faced
  - Her problem that disfigured her life was a demonic spirit

- **How long had the demon been tormenting the woman?**
- **Vs11 Eighteen years**
- **What is the significance of 18 years?**
  - Eighteen years is prophetically significant to the Hebrews
  - *Jdg 3:14 So the children of Israel served Eglon **king of Moab eighteen years.***
  - *Jdg 10:7 So the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He **sold** them into the hands of the Philistines and into the hands of the people of Ammon.*
    *Jdg 10:8 From that year they harassed and **oppressed the children of Israel for eighteen***
    ***year**s—all the children of Israel who were on the other side of the Jordan in the land of the*
    Amorites, in Gilead.
  - **Twice in Israel History they had been in bondage for 18 years**
    - They had taken God and His blessings for granted
    - They had abandoned their loyalty to God
    - They copied the lifestyle of the nations around them
    - They had bowed down to serve the gods of the other nations , Baal and Ashtaroth

  - **The Woman represented the condition of Israel under the control of religious spirits**
    - **Israel was in bondage to legalism**
    - **Instead of relationship and love there was law and duty and suffering**
    - **Israel became in bondage to a demon, a religious spirit masquerading as God**
    - **She was distorted and disfigured by it**

- **How did the Demon Enter the Woman?**
  - Demons are restricted in what they can do
  - Demons are constrained to operate within the limits that God has set
  - Demons need an opportunity to enter a person,
  - Nineteen years ago she was free.
  - Something happened to her 18 years ago that gave a demon the ability to enter her life

- **Eighteen represented a period of bondage to their enemies because of idolatry**
  - Twice in The Book of Judges, Israel was in bondage to their enemies for 18 years

- Judg.3:18
- Judg.10:4

- People have a hedge of protection from demons so they cannot enter at will
- *Job 1:10 Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.*
  - Demons are constrained to operate within the limits that God has set

- **Sin breaks down the protective wall and gives legal rights to demons to afflict and to enter**
  - *Ecc 10:8 He who digs a pit will fall into it, And whoever breaks through a wall will be bitten by a serpent.*
  - Exod.22:3 The law indicated that a person who ran up a debt could be sold as a slave
  - We are to give no place or legal right of access to the devil (Eph 4:7)
- This passage does not reveal how the demon was able to enter the woman

- **Typical Doorways for a Spirit of Infirmity**
  - **Generational Iniquity and Curses**
  - **Idolatry**
  - **Spiritism…**
    - **Fortune telling and sorcery and witchcraft**
    - **Freemasonry**
  - **Bitterness…failure to forgive, especially parents**
  - **Trauma**
  - **Unresolved Grief**
  - **Abandonment**
  - **Rejection and Self Hatred**
  - **Ungodly Attachments (soul ties)**
  - **Controlling relationships…Manipulative or abusive (Jezebel)**

3. **Deep Shame**

- **The woman also suffered from Deep Shame**
  - Guilt…*I caused a problem* ….Shame…… *I am the problem*
  - Shame is an attack upon **identity**
  - Western Culture is a law based Guilt/innocence culture…it is an individualistic culture
  - 70% of world cultures are Honor/Shame Cultures …they are collective cultures
  - Middle Eastern Culture is an Honor Shame Culture

- **Honor…….value or worth, to be held in high esteem by the community**
  - **Sources**: Ascribed….due to family of origin, name, social connections
    Achieved…charitable acts, courage and bravery

- **Shame ….to be looked down upon and despised by the community**
  - **Sources:** Ascribed….due to family of origin, social grouping
    Achieved….cowardice, physical deformity (Seen as a curse)
    Divorce, abandoned
    Failure
    Barren woman
    Sexual abused
    Physical illness, bleeding, leprosy etc
  - A person who was severely deformed was socially shamed and mistreated
  - There was not only a shame around her but also her family

- **Shame Impacts Deeply**
- Shame deeply impacts how people see themselves and what they believe about themselves
  - *"Something wrong with me"*
  - *"I am the problem"*
  - *"I am unloveable'*
  - *"I will never be good enough"*
  - *"I am powerless to change"*
  - *" I don't belong"*
- Shame causes people to live in fear of rejection and to conceal their condition, and avoid people or try to over compensate for their condition
  - Shame is an identity thief and a major weapon of demonic spirits

4. **The Woman Represented the Condition of the Church**

- **The Church:**
  - **The Woman was disfigured and severely limited in vision and activity**
  - **The woman was bound and bowed down by demonic spirits**
  - **The woman was in shame rather than honour**

- **Jesus Reveals:**
  - God loves people and remains faithful
  - God is interested in every area of our lives more just spiritual matters

  - No matter how serious or impossible our problem is, God is able to heal and deliver and totally restore us

III. The Ministry of Jesus

1. He Saw her

- *Luk 13:12 But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him*
- **He noticed her and focussed attention of everyone upon her**
  - Sometimes people with shame and a handicap do not want to be noticed
  - The woman was known by her handicap, her infirmity
  - She was known by the label given her …people would avoid and look away from her

- **God sees past the labels that people place upon us because of some failure**
  - The woman had **faith** in her heart for her healing that attracted his attention
  - Faith and spiritual hunger attracts the attention of Jesus
  - She had come with gators and with perseverance looking for a miracle
- Jesus stopped what He was doing…he stopped preaching

2. He was Moved with Compassion

- **Jesus was constantly moved with a deep compassion for people**
- He saw past her handicap and saw the person of value within
  - He saw her hardship, rejection, the inner shame, her self hate
  - He saw her hunger and faith and longing for a miracle
- **Whatever your condition Jesus sees you, He sees the real you. He sees your heart and hunger and your pain**

3. He Welcomed Her

- *Luk 13:12 But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him*
  - A Jewish Rabbi would not even talk to women
  - People sense judgment;, s against them and can sense a genuine acceptance and welcome
  - Jesus welcomes the broken and invites them to come to Him
  - Jesus was criticized by religious people because he welcomed people that they despised

4. He Delivered her from the Spirit

- *Luk 13:12 But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity."*
  - He confronted the demonic spirit and cast it out
  - Deliverance is evidence that the Kingdom of God has come (Matt.12:28)
  - Demons cannot be counseled or medicated they must be confronted and cast out

5. He Healed her Condition

- *Luk 13:13 And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.*
  - He laid hands upon her
  - No rabbi would ever speak to a woman let alone touch a woman
  - To touch a woman meant ceremonial defilement
  - Jesus refused to be constricted by the religious spirits and their accusations
  - Jesus actions in laying hands upon her and healing her was a direct honour challenge to the religious system

6. He Restored her Honour

- **What is an Honour Challenge?**
  - Honour was a highly sought commodity
  - Honour was often sought in public by challenging another person
  - One person would walk away with honour and the other with the shame of defeat

- **Steps of an Honour Challenge**
  - A person speaks or does something in public
  - Their words or actions are public ally challenged
  - A response is then expected
  - The people decide who the winner of the challenge is

- **The Religious Leader Challenges Jesus**
  - *Luk 13:14 But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days*

on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."

- The leader is responsible for the honour of the leaders of the synagogue
- He speaks on their behalf as their representative

- **Jesus Replies to the Honour Challenge**
- Jesus has set up the situation intentionally to **provoke and expose the whole disfigured religious system** that holds the people in bondage to legalism
  - Their Hypocrisy and inconsistency
  - Their Legalism
  - Their Value system

- **Jesus restores the Womans Honor publicly**
- *Luk 13:16 So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"*
  - Jesus honours the woman…calling her a Daughter of Abraham
  - No woman in the Bible has been spoken of this way
  - He saw past her condition and saw her faith
  - He publicly honoured the faith that he saw in her heart
- He restored her honour and identity and healing
  - He does this publicly to remove shame and restore honour

- **Jesus Publicly Shames Religious Leaders**
- *Luk 13:17 And when He said these things, **all His adversaries were put to shame**; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.*
  - Religious leaders were Jesus adversaries….enemies
  - It is not sinners and broken people that are His adversaries…It is Religious people that hold people to the law and resist the move of the Holy Spirit

IV. Call To Respond

- **What has bowed you down?**
- **What has imprisoned you?**
- **What has disfigured you?**
- **What is causing you Shame?**
  - Grief
  - Disappointment
  - Rejection
  - Abuse
  - Abandonment
  - Failure
  - Poverty- Lack
  - Trauma

- **What is holding you back from living as God intended**
  What has brought shame to your life?
  - **What is it you need to be set free from?**
  - **What is it you heed to be healed from?**
  - **Name it!**
  - **Come to Jesus in faith**

- **Jesus sees you…and calls you to Himself**

Altar Call: Bowed Down

1. **Nightmares and Tormenting spirits**
2. **Miscarriages /Abortions**
3. **Grief…Trauma**
4. **Religious …Condemnation and Legalism**