

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

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Association Minister Message

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SEEING. “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.” (Luke 13:11). A recent TV commercial for a mirror attachment over the car’s rear-view mirror enables a driver to *SEE* traffic to the left and right of the car that normally are blind spots even using side mirrors. Blinders are put on horses in races so that they are not distracted by other race horses and used so they *SEE* straight ahead.

In the scripture from Luke, so often we just focus on her healing and forget the restrictions she had *SEEING* things around her. For eighteen years she was bent over and you can imagine that her sight focused down on the ground. While walking she did not have a panoramic view of where she was or where she was going. It must have been painful for her to try to straighten up to be in conversation and *SEE* the face of someone talking to her. Her *SEEING* those around her and *SEEING* God’s creation would have been limited and frustrating.

What do you *SEE* physically, mentally, and/or spiritually? How do you *SEE* the good or evil in yourself, others, or God’s creation? “*But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath...*” was so legalistic that he complained that healing was done on the “*wrong*” day, the Sabbath. Are we so cynical at times that we complain that deeds of care, love, and compassion happen at the “*wrong*” time or are not happening? Do we *SEE* in others something that would prevent us from having a relationship with them? Again, do you look for the good or evil in others and the creation?

Jesus responds to the leader by declaring the woman finally has been set free from that which kept her in bondage for eighteen years! The release from the shackles of captivity gave her new life and she would be able to *SEE* family and friends standing up straight! Her vision of life was restored, allowing her to focus on others and not the ground. After Jesus freed the woman of her infirmities, “*all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that Jesus was doing.*” (vs. 17). Pray that God opens our eyes, ears, mouths, minds, and hearts to *SEE*, understand, appreciate, and comprehend God’s vision everywhere, for God’s love is generous, abundant, and gracious. **BLESSINGS ALWAYS.**