



Daily Reflections

October 30, 2017

Scripture

Luke 13: 10-17

Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on the sabbath.
And a woman was there who for eighteen years
had been crippled by a spirit;
she was bent over, completely incapable of standing erect.
When Jesus saw her, he called to her and said,
"Woman, you are set free of your infirmity."
He laid his hands on her,
and she at once stood up straight and glorified God.
But the leader of the synagogue,
indignant that Jesus had cured on the sabbath,
said to the crowd in reply,
"There are six days when work should be done.
Come on those days to be cured, not on the sabbath day."
The Lord said to him in reply, "Hypocrites!
Does not each one of you on the sabbath
untie his ox or his ass from the manger
and lead it out for watering?
This daughter of Abraham,
whom Satan has bound for eighteen years now,
ought she not to have been set free on the sabbath day
from this bondage?"
When he said this, all his adversaries were humiliated;
and the whole crowd rejoiced at all the splendid deeds done by him.

Our Scripture Reflection

By healing a woman on the Sabbath, work forbidden by Jewish Law, Jesus exposes the hypocrisy of the synagogue leader who complains against Him. Jesus points out that the leader would assist his farm animal if it were to be found in distress on the Sabbath, so why not show mercy to a human being in need of help? Jesus teaches him, and us, that there is never an inappropriate time nor day to show compassion to those who are in need.

Food for your Journey

True mercy is “a voluntary sorrow that joins itself to the suffering of another.”

—Church father Gregory of Nyssa.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Fill my heart with Your compassionate love. May I never miss an opportunity to show mercy to anyone who is hurting and in need of help. Amen.