

Walk Tall, Walk Straight

In Luke 13:10–17, Jesus encounters a woman crippled for 18 years, bent over and unable to look up. Her world was limited to the ground before her, with little chance for face-to-face conversation. Seeing her, Jesus is moved with compassion, calls her forward, and heals her. She immediately stands straight, praises God, and her life is transformed.

Rather than rejoicing, the synagogue leader criticises Jesus for healing on the Sabbath, revealing a legalistic mindset that valued man-made rules over compassion. The leaders allowed care for animals on the Sabbath but denied mercy to a suffering human being. Jesus exposes their hypocrisy, reminding them that God's law is about love for Him and others, not rigid traditions that miss the heart of the Law.

This act fulfils Isaiah 61:1, which proclaims freedom for the oppressed, healing for the brokenhearted, and release from bondage. Jesus' ministry lived out this mission by bringing hope, restoring dignity, and confronting systems, even religious ones, that kept people in spiritual or physical chains.

While the woman's physical condition was healed, the religious leaders' narrow spiritual vision remained. Charged with guiding God's people, they failed to recognise His work in their midst because it did not fit their expectations. Their resistance warns us that we too can be so fixed in our thinking that we miss what God is doing.

The woman, however, embraced change, risked standing tall, and stepped into her new life. Her healing reveals a deeper truth: those who think they are whole may be spiritually crippled, while those who know their need can be restored.

Jesus came to give life abundantly (John 10:10), and this story calls us to open our eyes, reject empty traditions, and walk tall in the freedom He offers.