

## **The Rescuing and Restoring Kingdom**

Luke 13:10-21

After a whole block of teaching we have a miracle. Why is that? Well, Jesus links this healing to two parables about the kingdom, so this miracle must be teaching us something about the kingdom.

### **The Kingdom Rescues**

This woman has been held captive by Satan, yet she is a daughter of Abraham. So we have two kingdoms in conflict – one that seeks to wreck lives, and one that seeks to bless and make whole.

While we may not experience what this woman experiences, Satan still seeks to afflict people by blinding them to the truth, through physical sickness, through temptation and sin. And this woman is a picture of those whom Satan binds and keeps captive. Yet Jesus delivers her with a word! She had been bound for 18 years, yet Jesus delivers her in a moment. We should never think a situation is beyond hope!

### **The Kingdom Restores**

Jesus does more than rescue us, he also restores us to be what we were meant to be: worshippers. Jesus sets this woman free and immediately she worships. The great folly of humanity is when we worship something other than God. Jesus delivers us so that we can worship the right thing: God. Which is why the Sabbath was such a good day for this woman to be healed!

### **The Kingdom Divides**

Two weeks ago we saw how Jesus said he had come to bring division. This event gives an example of that division. The synagogue ruler had boxed God in and when God acted outside his box he couldn't recognize the healing as God. He was more interested in the externals of Sabbath observance than seeing people who were bound being set free. So Jesus doesn't just divide believers from atheists, but believers from religious folk.

The danger of us is that it is easy to prefer the safe, boxed-in god of religion to the God of the Bible. We must not lose sight of the fact that the kingdom is in the rescuing and restoring business.

### **The Kingdom Triumphs**

Jesus follows up the miracle by telling these two parables. They tell us that the kingdom may start small, but it will grow and expand and ultimately triumph. And as the birds nest in the tree so people will find rest and shelter in the kingdom.