

Thought for the Day – Thursday 5th August 2021

By Revd John Marshall

The woman who was bent over.

We meet a woman in a synagogue, we don't know her name. We know she is in need and distress. Jesus calls her over into the centre of the synagogue. He laid his hands on her, and immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. Once again Jesus ignores taboos in touching and talking to her.

The officials are shocked that Jesus healed on the Sabbath. Jesus shows them something of their hypocrisy.

Luke 13 10-17

Janet Morley meditates on this story in a litany.

O God our deliverer

(woman bent double)

O God our deliverer,

at whose feet we are free

to lay down our heavy burdens:

we bring before you

those whose tasks are back-breaking,

whose daily labour damages their bodies

whose survival depends on repeating work

that wounds them.

Who cannot dance free.

Make them hear of joy and gladness,

that the bones which you have broken may rejoice.

We bring before you
those who live uneasy in their bodies,
those whose bodies restrict or pain them,
who are 'patronized' by those who move with ease,
who cannot dance free.

Make them hear of joy and gladness

That the bones which you have broken may rejoice.

We bring before you
those whose spirits are crushed,
who have forgotten how to look up with pride,
who have been long in bondage to oppression,
who cannot dance free.

Make them hear of joy and gladness,

that the bones which you have broken may rejoice.

Janet Morley All Desires Known SPCK

Meeting Jesus was transformational for the woman – and for us.