

In today's Gospel, Luke 13:10-17, we hear about a day when Jesus Christ was teaching in the synagogue and a woman came with a spirit of infirmity of eighteen years. She was bent over, and when Jesus saw her, He called her to come and healed her immediately. She was finally after so many years able to stand straight and praised God. Onlookers seeing this commented to Jesus Christ that on the sabbath day no work should be done. The Lord rebuked them saying, "You hypocrites," for on the sabbath day work is done like untying an ox, so why not help a woman who has suffered for so long and heal her?

How many of us are sick? Maybe we are struggling with depression. Maybe we are spiritually anemic. Maybe we are fighting cancer. The sick woman in today's Gospel who went to the synagogue on the day of rest is a good example for each of us. She was a pious woman who even in her pain came to hear the word of God and pray. She came bent from her illness, but bowed in reverence, in faith to God. It was at the synagogue that she found more than she expected; she found a complete healing of her illness after eighteen years!

Dearest ones, God loves us greatly and pours out this love to us unconditionally. Nothing can come between us and God when we are asking for help. Let us open our hearts and allow God to call us to Him in all circumstances so that this love can billow over us again and again throughout our lives. Let us approach Him in prayer and in attending the services of the Church always giving thanksgiving, honor and worship to Him in the Highest; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever, amen.