

Introduction:

- Happy Mothers Day! But today I want to speak to all women. I want to encourage you as women and help you to see yourselves as Jesus sees you. And to help men update their understanding of who you are and enable them to scripturally defend you.
- My text for today is: “*And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?*” (Luke 13:16, ESV) This woman was bound for 18 years but women over all have been bound for centuries.
- IE. Beautiful or average? As a woman, how would you categorize yourself? The makers of Dove soap asked that question in a worldwide survey. To demonstrate the results, they set up signs at the entrances of buildings around the globe. At each location, one door was marked “Average” and the other was marked “Beautiful.” Across the board, women overwhelmingly chose to walk through the door marked “Average.” In fact, a staggering 96% chose that door. A mere 4% chose to walk through the door marked “Beautiful.” Sure, some stopped and pondered the possibility of choosing “Beautiful,” but all too often they abandoned the choice. The reasons were varied. Many felt that it seemed like vanity to admit that they considered themselves beautiful, while others genuinely believed themselves unworthy of walking through the “Beautiful” door. One woman from Shanghai picked the average door, saying: “Beautiful, to me, is too far out of reach.” **Application:** It is easy to believe a lie when you think it is true. And it’s not vanity to acknowledge the value that God attributes to each of us. It’s the truth and it is liberating. Don’t balk at the opportunity to behave in a way that reveals your self-image in Christ. For how are we to convey to others their worth and beauty in the eyes of God, if we cannot acknowledge it and embrace it within ourselves? Illustration Exchange: ANDREA MAGRATH FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA.
- I believe that women have been told so many lies through out the years just to keep them in bondage. The devil is a liar and the father of lies. And lies always lead to bondage but the knowledge of the Truth sets you free! As Jesus said, “*Untie this woman!*”

I. Jesus Was More Radical Than Any Other Man In Scripture Toward Women

- A. If you want to find a biblical perspective of seeing women, the first place you should start is with Jesus. It was Jesus who said on the Sabbath, “Loose this woman!” Other translations say, “Untie this woman!”
 1. Jesus carried out a ministry of setting women free; not just of infirmities but lies that men have put upon them since the fall of Adam and Eve.
 2. In the garden of Eden, Eve was equal to Adam. There is nothing before the fall of man that would lead us to believe other wise. It was the ‘curse’ upon women by God that propagated historical lies, from men, to keep women in bondage to men.
 3. It was the poor translation of a Hebrew word as ‘helper’ or ‘help meet’ that started the oppression. She was not Adams helper but Adams companion, friend, equal placed in the Garden so they could rule together over creation!
 4. So how did Jesus see women?
- B. The radical views of Jesus. Jesus seems to go out of His way to ‘tick off’ the religious orders of the day. He was always challenging the ridiculous views of men toward women.

1. Women were considered mens property. They were seen as ignorant. They were considered morally repulsive. (Blamed for the fall of man). They were valued only for their servant roles as wives and mothers.
 2. This is context in which Jesus ministered the Father's love to women, in particular.
 3. We read the stories and read right over the radicalness of Jesus view of women. Lets look at some scriptural examples and be encouraged! Jesus actually welcomed women among His disciples this was radical because no Pharisee of the day would have women as disciples.
- C. Radical Scriptural Examples:
1. The woman at the well. John 4:5-30; *** *“Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?””* (John 4:27, ESV)
 - a) They marveled he talked with a woman. Why did they marvel? Because they did not understand why Jesus would talk to a woman. Messiah welcomes women into the conversation.
 - b) They marveled or stood in wonder because what Jesus was doing had never been done before! He was crushing a lie by showing the Father's love to this woman who had been beat down in life! You have had five husbands and the one you are with now is not your husband. *Untie this woman!*
 - c) Note: This woman is the only woman, beyond Jewish origin that Jesus releases to go into the fields white unto harvest. *Untie this woman!* This is the Father's heart to bound up women!
 2. The sinful woman who anointed His feet. Luke 7:36-50. This woman was a sinner! (unlike everyone else in the house). The Pharisees saw her as unclean and sinful just because she was a woman. When you believe a lie, you project a lie and a projected lie puts others in bondage! *Untie this woman!* She comes into a room full of men and grabs Jesus feet!
 - a) Jesus acknowledges the appropriateness of her actions and deals mercifully with her.
 - b) Jesus seeks to set her free and reverse the curse of the first Adam! By doing it publicly in the presence of those who thought evil of her, He demonstrates that He had come to remove not only her guilt and shame but every woman's guilt and shame. *Untie this woman!*
 - c) Jesus in verse 44 looks at the woman and says to Simon, the Pharisee, *“Do you see this woman?”* He wants all men to see a woman...not a sinner, not property, not a servant, not someone despised. He wants them to see a woman! *Untie this woman!*
 3. Woman caught in adultery. Jn 8:1-11. Here is a woman caught in adultery and the men are ready to stone this evil, sinful, adultness woman, caught in the very act...but where is her evil, sinful, adulteress partner?
 - a) The Pharisees come and say, *“The law said, but what do you say?”* vs.5 Jesus brings the equal opportunity statement! *“Let him without sin throw the first stone.”* That leveled the playing field! Where are your accusers?
 - b) Neither do I condemn you. What a picture of unconditional love! *Untie this woman!*

- c) Jesus was confronting the self-righteous men surrounding her like wolves. He was breaking off of her and every other woman an oppression that grieved the Fathers heart.
- 4. Mary at Jesus feet. Luke 10:38-42. You know this story of Mary at the feet of Jesus while Martha busily served.
 - a) In Jesus day, this really was not allowed by the rabbis. Women were not allowed to sit at the feet of rabbis. But here she sat listening to Jesus.
 - b) vs. 42 Jesus commends her for choosing the better thing!
 - c) Jesus had come to call women, not just men to sit at His feet.
 - d) And if they were allowed to sit at His feet, for sure, they would be allowed to teach other about him. Untie this woman! What does a freed woman do? She claims her inheritance! That freedom now is a part of her identity!

II. **Give Me My Inheritance** We are going to look at three groups of women who went after their inheritance. I don't remember ever hearing a sermon on any of them. Maybe men have been afraid to tackle the topic and empower women.

- A. The daughters of Zelophehad: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, Tirza. Five daughters. You find them in (Numbers 27:1-7; 36:1-12; Joshua 17:1-6). Ladies, their story is told so that you will claim your inheritance.
- B. These five daughters all defied cultural norms and the patriarchal systems of their day. By doing so they have left us with truth to be proclaimed which the five put on display. The system said the inheritance went to the boys. But, Zelophehad had no boys and he died in the wilderness. These five ladies, they went to Moses to claim their inheritance.
 - 1. "It is time for God's daughters to understand who they are, and how their heavenly Father sees them and what He has commissioned them to do in His Kingdom." Lee Grady, Ten Lies the Church Tells Women. p. 21.
 - 2. The daughters portion must be claimed!!! Untie these women! Give them their inheritance.
 - 3. How did they do this living in a mans world? May I theorize? I believe that Zelophehad, knowing he had only girls, instilled in them a zest for life and a refusal to accept cultural limitations. I believe he taught them their value and having a sense of personal destiny. As they became women their confidence was sure, their courage bold and they would not be silenced.
 - a) "Why should the name of our father be taken away from his clan because he had no son? Give to us a possession among our father's brothers." (Numbers 27:4, ESV)
 - b) This was bold! Can you imagine going to ask Moses for your father's inheritance? They risked it! Moses prayed to the Lord and the Lord said, "Give it to them!" When God said that He confronted centuries of stinking thinking regarding women!
 - c) Untie these women! Give them their inheritance.
- C. Caleb's Daughter. Joshua 15:13-19. His daughter Achsah claimed territory too! Like her daddy who said to Joshua, "Give me my mountain!" Achsah said, to Caleb: "She said to him, 'Give me a blessing. Since you have given me the land of the Negeb, give me also springs of water.' And he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs." (Joshua 15:19, ESV)

1. She asks for land in a day when women did not own land.
 2. She asks for springs to water her land!
 3. "I believe the Holy Spirit has woven a subtle theme through the Bible pointing to the fact that redeemed women will inherit the Kingdom." Lee Grady, Ten Lies the Church Tells Women. p. 24.
"Untie this woman! Give her her inheritance!"
 4. God is looking for women with an apostolic spirit who hunger for the inheritance of souls. We have got to see more and more women set free to be who Christ has called them to be.
- D. Job's Three Daughters. Job 42:12-15. Jemimah, Keziah, and Keren-happuch. They are described as incredibly beautiful women. Job had lost all his children earlier. Now his fortune is restored and he had 10 children. Seven sons and three daughters.
1. Note: Only the daughters are named. None of the sons were named. The word says of His daughters: *"And in all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters. And their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers."* (Job 42:15, ESV)
 2. The Holy Spirit is again showing us God's heart for women! Men have abused, marginalized and taken advantage of women for a long time. I am talking about in the church too.
 3. This old, old book called Job, speaks of a day when women who are empowered by the Holy Spirit will be fully restored to their place of authority and equality with men.
 4. Jesus purchased our redemption! All of us! And He broke the power of sin, shame, guilt and oppression off of women! *Untie these women! Give them their inheritance!*

Conclusion:

- "A rare Chinese bowl bought for about \$3 from a yard sale in the U.S. sold for \$2.2 million at an auction in New York on Tuesday. The bowl, found in New York state, "was bought for a few dollars from a tag sale near the consignor's home in the summer of 2007," said Cecilia Leung of Sotheby's. *"At the time, the purchaser had no idea that they had happened upon a 1,000-year-old treasure."* The previous owner displayed the bowl in their living room for several years before they became curious about its origins and had it assessed, Leung said. Sotheby's pre-sale estimates valued the bowl, which measures just five inches in diameter, at between \$200,000 to \$300,000. The 'Ding' bowl is an example of Northern Song Dynasty pottery and described by Sotheby's as "remarkable and exceptionally beautiful." The only other known bowl of the same size, form and almost identical decoration has been in the collection of the British Museum in London for over 60 years, according to Sotheby's. The bowl was purchased by London dealer, Giuseppe Eskenazi, for \$2,225,000, after a prolonged battle between four bidders. **APPLICATION** It is sadly common for people to undervalue something that is, in all actuality, quite valuable. Take women, for example. Like beautiful treasures, they are each one a unique masterpiece. Yet few cultures have recognized the true value of God's creation. The world might see her as some "garage sale" item, but God sees her as a treasure worthy of honor and display. "Bought for \$3 at yard sale, bowl sells for \$2.2 million" By Georgia McCafferty, for CNN, 3/21/13
- Ladies, the Lord sees you as beautiful! Not average! Maybe you have been marred by life's disappointment. Maybe you have been robbed of promotions, sales, and position because of your gender. God sees it all! Maybe you have been traumatized with abuse, shame, abortions, molestation. God sees it all!
- I say to us today: Untie these women and Give them their inheritance!

- When you were born again, you were raised up with Jesus and seated with Him in heavenly places. You have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ in the heavenly places (Ephesians 1:3, ESV)