



LifeSpot ... Four forgotten miracles

Freedom for the bound

Two verses—that's all it takes to tell this story. A man is controlled by demons, and he's robbed of ability to speak. In his society, this man is a silent nobody, a captive in a personal hell. But he has one blessing—somebody in his life loves him enough to bring him to Jesus. "When the demon was driven out, the man spoke." Matthew 9:33 (NIRV). This man will be healed—it's not a forlorn hope but a foregone conclusion. In one transforming moment comes freedom. No more demon, no more prison of silence. Can you imagine the first words spilling out of this man's opened mouth? The same Jesus stands ready today. Freedom for the bound—for you, or for someone you love.

Release for the oppressed

A man with communication shutdown is brought to Jesus. He's deaf, and he can barely speak. God gives us communication, but the devil shuts it down. Or, he diverts it into dark pathways. Because this man can't hear a thing, Jesus makes connection through *touch*—fingers to the man's ears, a fingertip to the man's tongue. It's intimate, it's powerful. With a sigh that carries Earth's sorrow through Heaven's gates, Jesus commands "Be opened!" Mark 7:34 (NIRV). Immediately, oppressive silence is banished. The man speaks freely. People are amazed. They say about Jesus, "He has done everything well." Is there an aspect of your communication that can find release through Jesus' touch today?

Favour for the bruised

As the crisis against Jesus rises to its peak, fishermen—disciples become soldiers with swords. In a desperate moment of darkness, Peter slashes at the head of the high priest's servant, and that man's ear falls to the ground. Peter goes counter-miracle, causing the very kind of disability Jesus has so often healed. But look at our Saviour! While his own agony presses hard, he gently touches the lacerated head and gives Malchus an ear brand new. Luke 22:49–51; John 18:10–11. The church is instructed to love its enemies, not hurt them. But when it fails—when it slashes and bruises—Jesus remains the Healer. Will you cooperate with him in this work, for the rest of your life?

Recovery for the bent

She is bent over, crippled by an evil spirit, bound in her own spirit the past 18 years. She sees only the floor and the feet of upright people around her. But she is worshipping—she has shuffled to the synagogue on a Sabbath. People crush around her, yet they make some space for her—not from mercy, but from zeal not to be contaminated. Normally, there would be little chance for relief in the synagogue. But this day, Jesus is present. He sees her, asks her to come to him. He says, "Woman, you will no longer be disabled. I am about to set you free." Luke 13:12 (NIRV). With a touch from Jesus' hands, the woman stands up straight and praises God. What is bending you over today? Come as you are into the presence of Jesus, because he is about to set you free.