

# "RELEASING THE SHACKLES OF OUR TRIALS"

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**Today we're going to take a look at the shackles, specifically as they relate to our trials and those ways that we become bound or chained to our trials in life.**

Before we begin to dive into this, I want to refresh our memories and provide a few of the dictionary definitions of quicken...

- to make alive as in revive
  - to cause to burn more intensely
  - to come to life
  - to enter into a phase of active growth and development
  - to shine more brightly
- Perhaps you're wondering how trials and shackles can make these things come about, especially since it seems such a contradiction. But there really isn't a better way to create a quickening than a really good trial that you've been through and come out on the other side.
  - The question is: must we wait until the trial or pain is over in order to experience these things in our lives - particularly our spiritual lives?

## WHY TRIALS?

*(Vs) Matthew 5:45 - For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

We experience pain because we break the inexorable laws of God.

- These laws were built both into the universe and into the human race. The laws are solid and immovable and try as we might to sway the laws, they stand firm.

We experience pain because we live in a constant state of interdependence on others.

- Somebody else can make a bad decision and I might be in the way, minding my own business.
- When someone we love or care about is going through a trial, we also feel pain. In fact, many of the situations we find ourselves in are because a person close to us is dealing with addiction, cancer, or loss, or even dies. This creates unbearable pain at times.

## **We experience pain because in God's sovereign design, we live in a world of cause and effect.**

- When a tornado sweeps through a town, it takes down everything in its path. A river that overflows its banks is going to flood anything that is close to it. If a fire gets started, it will burn.

## **We experience pain because it is a part of this life.**

- We don't like this one and think that we should never feel discomfort or pain or hurt or sadness. We are always so surprised when it happens, and yet the Bible clearly tells us that we will have pain and trials.

*(Vs) John 16:33 - "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

*(Vs) James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

## **THE WOMAN WITH THE BLOOD**

*(Vs) Mark 5:21-24 NIV - When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him.*

*And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'" But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."*

1. She had suffered for 12 years. That is a long time
2. Outcast from society. She may have travelled from another town so that no body would know her.
3. She suffered alone - her affliction was private and personal - not one she wanted to broadcast publicly.
4. Spent all that she had seeking a solution
5. Mistreated by those who supposedly were supposed to help her
6. Everything that could go wrong did and she only got worse
7. Maybe at first she thought the problem would go away quickly and life would resume normalcy.
8. Was she jealous of other women?
9. Did she resent the laws that banned her?
10. The commentaries I read say that she was not that old - but had become withered beyond her years because of her ailment.
11. She was at the end of herself, ready to surrender to what Jesus could do for her.

## **SHACKLES-BLAME, SHAME, GUILT**

**The bondage, or shackles take hold when we take on these extras in the form of Shame, Blame and Guilt.**

- **Blame** - We resent our pain and struggles becoming bitter and vengeful - often blaming others, ourselves and God.
- **Shame** - We become a martyr, bearing our burden wearily with little hope for any change.
- **Guilt** - Even if it's not my fault, I may feel guilty about the load my family is bearing because of what's happening.
- So if Shame, Blame, and Guilt are how we become shackled to our trials, then how do we get set free?

## **FREEDOM - LOOK TO JESUS**

- **Instead of Blame** - focus on God's Bounty - SEE WHAT HE WILL DO. In this case, Jesus healed the woman instantly. We've all heard of these miraculous healings. But what if you're still waiting.
- **Instead of Guilt** - focus on how OTHERS WILL BECOME CLOSER TO GOD through your trial.
- We never know how our experience affects another person. Everything we go through is an opportunity for a family member, friend, acquaintance or even a total stranger to see something in us that sparks them to seek God, or just trust Him more.
- Just one chapter earlier in Luke, there was a centurion whose servant was sick. In a similar situation - a crowd gathering around Jesus - He asks Jesus to just "say the word" and heal this person...

*(Vs) Luke 7:6-7 – And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed.*

*(Vs) Luke 7:9 – When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."*

- **Instead of Shame** - Seek God and a closer relationship with Him. What does it take for some of us to draw closer to Him on a deeper, more desperate and urgent level?
- The woman of blood was willing to fight the crowd, risk discovery and public humiliation, whatever it took, just so that she could get closer to Jesus.

**In spite of the pain, the hurt, the sadness, we can find freedom and healing in Him!**