

# *My name is Liberty*

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## **BEGINNING THOUGHTS...**

I've been married for 45 years. All those years, my husband has called me "Woman." It's never been a problem or a derogatory name for me because he's always treated me with kindness and love. To him, it's a term of respect. Many over the years have asked me why he calls me "woman." In our culture, this is viewed as a term of subservience—as if the name is of no consequence. However, that is certainly not the case with us. I've always known how he means it, and I even feel special. (I don't hear too many others addressing their wives that way.)

When Jesus used the term "Woman," He was showing respect for the person He was addressing. Since the beginning of time, females have been called "Woman." That's as it should be. Jesus gives them places of honor throughout His ministry here on earth. They were important to Him and He knew their names. We know that he knew Mary and Martha as friends. He called them by name.

The person whom Jesus called "Woman" in Luke 15, was possibly old enough to be His sister, mother, or grandmother; and so He showed respect. It's not important that we're told her specific name. Jesus knew, but chose instead to say, "Woman." I don't think she cared that He didn't use her given name. All she knew was this: When she came to Him, she could only see the kind of sandals He wore, but after His touch, she could see the color of His eyes. What an amazing act of love and compassion. She would never be the same. You and I are never the same after He calls our name either. He may call us to service, faith, forgiveness, or inactivity. Whatever His call, we must learn to accept it with gratitude and grace. We choose whether our attitude is positive or negative.



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### THE WOMAN

**Key Verse:** “And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.” (Luke 13:11).

**Key Thought:** Jesus offers us healing and freedom from bondage and suffering.

- ➔ Use a journal during the study to record your thoughts and scriptures. Write the Key Verse above to begin.
- ➔ Go over the questions and answers together on p.13 of *Treasure*.
- ➔ Do you like to be addressed by your name? Do you require a title when spoken to? (*Discuss how some may need a title such as Mrs., Doctor, Your Honor, Senator, etc.*)
- ➔ God does place importance on the word “Woman.” Write these Scriptures in your journal to remind you. (*Proverbs 31:10,30; Matthew 15:28; Acts 9:36; Galatians 4:4.*) Where is the term woman first mentioned? (*Genesis 2:23*)
- ➔ Most of the time we see only first names in the Bible. Name some Bible women. (*Mary, Rahab, Hannah, Lois, Esther, and many more.*)
- ➔ Does God place importance on people’s names? (*Proverbs 22:1; Ecclesiastes 7:1; Acts 22:12; 2 Corinthians 8:18; 3 John 12.*) Are you excited when you think that God knows your name and thinks about you?
- ➔ What does the term “Liberty” mean to you? (*Definitions: Condition of being free from restrictions or control; Condition of being physically and legally free from confinement, servitude, or forced labor; Free-American Heritage Dictionary.*)
- ➔ Freedom is a precious possession. Tell what it means to you personally.
- ➔ Your nation, family, race, religion? What gives you freedom?
- ➔ Does Jesus care about the way you feel, both physically and spiritually? (*Yes-Hebrews 4:15; John 11:36,*)
- ➔ Jesus has divine omniscience which means He is “all knowing”. Read John 2:24, 16:30. Does He know your heart?
- ➔ Liberty glorified God when Jesus healed her. Is that your immediate response when God does something for you?
- ➔ Think of a time in your life when God touched you and you didn’t praise Him for it.
- ➔ What should you do? (*Seek His forgiveness and then tell someone what He did for you.*)

**Reflection:** Dismiss in prayer and praise for God who heals.



## *My Name is Liberty*

### THE SAVIOR

**Key Verse:** “And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity” (Luke 13:12).

**Key Thought:** Jesus—powerful and caring—sees beyond our problems, speaks into our situation, and reaches out to meet our needs.

- ➔ Write the Key Verse in your journal.
- ➔ Go over the questions and answers on p.15 of *Treasure*. Assign the Scriptures and have women read these aloud.
- ➔ What does *omnipotent* mean? (*All Powerful—Matthew 28:18; John 10:18; Romans 1:4.*)
- ➔ Have you experienced the touch of the Master’s hand? Look at some of the touches He offers. *Cleansing Touch—Matthew 8:3; Quieting Touch—Matthew 8:15; Illuminating Touch—Matthew 9:29-30; Reassuring Touch—Matthew 17:7; Liberating Touch—Mark 7:32-36; Healing Touch—Luke 22:51.*
- ➔ Which of these do you need most at this time in your life?
- ➔ Did Jesus limit His touch to adults? (*No. Read Mark 10:13, 16.*)
- ➔ The Savior loved children as evidenced by the promise of reward in Matthew 10:42. What is the action required? (Kindness)
- ➔ When Jesus healed the woman, He showed her compassion. Look up these Scriptures, times he showed others this attribute. (*Matthew 9:36, 15:32—For the Multitude; Matthew 20:34—For the Unfortunate; Matthew 23:37—For Jerusalem; Mark 1:41—For the Leper; Luke 7:13; John 11:35—For the Bereaved.*)
- ➔ Do you feel the compassion and love of Christ in your life?
- ➔ What are some practical ways to show others these same traits? (*Pray for them; Extend a helping hand; Fix a meal at various times—births, hospital stays, deaths; Invite over to your home; Give money for a need.*)
- ➔ When healing doesn’t come, how do you cope with this? (*With grace—Ephesians 4:7, 2 Corinthians 12:9; With faithfulness—Hebrews 10:23, 1 Peter 4:19; With comfort from God—John 14:18; 16:33; With Joy—John 17:13.*)
- ➔ Did the Savior bear the burdens of others? (*See Romans 15:1; Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 13:3; James 1:27; Acts 20:35.*)

**Reflection:** Dismiss in prayer. Thank God for watching you.



## *My Name is Liberty*

### THE OPPOSITION

**Key Verse:** “And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.” (Luke 13:14).

**Key Thought:** Regardless of cultural traditions or personal preferences, our practices in worship should honor and model Jesus Christ.

- Write the Key Verse in your journal.
- Go over the questions and answers together on p.17 of *Treasure*.
- Why did Jesus receive so much opposition from these people who were supposedly the religious leader”? (*He was unorthodox in some things. They didn’t understand His power and thought he posed a threat to them.*)
- What did Jesus call them? (*Hypocrites—Luke 13:15*)
- Let’s look at ways the Sabbath was desecrated under Mosaic Law. (*Gathering manna—Exodus 16:15, 27-28; Selling on the Sabbath—Nehemiah 13:15-16; Gathering sticks—Numbers 15:32-35; Doing any work—Exodus 31:14.*)
- What was the man doing wrong in John 5:10? (*Carrying his bed on the Sabbath*)
- Did he know who had healed him? (*No—John 5:12-13.*)
- Did Jesus know the man? (*Yes, He found him in the temple—John 5:14.*)
- Why did Jesus say, “Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee”? (*He understood human nature. Jesus knew that physical and emotional problems are often caused by spiritual disease and maladjustment.*)
- Paul emphasized to the Ephesians that they were chosen of God and precious. What was the theme of Ephesians 4? (*Unity and the new man*)
- Why is unity important in churches and among Christians? (*We serve the same Lord—Ephesians 4:3-6.*)
- Where do we find the first reference to the Sabbath in the Bible? (*Genesis 2:3*)

**Reflection:** “If God be for us, who can be against us” (Romans 8:31). Dismiss in prayer and thank God for taking care of us in battle.



## *My Name is Liberty*

### THE RESULTS

**Key Verses:** *"And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God...all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him" (Luke 13:13, 17).*

**Key Thought:** Our response to God's healing work in our lives should be thanksgiving and praise.

- Add the Key Verse to your journal.
- Go over the questions and answers on p. 19 of *Treasure*.
- What nationality was the leper who was cleansed? (*Samaritan—Luke 17:16.*)
- When did Jesus have another encounter with a Samaritan? (*The Woman at the well—John 4:6-7, 9-10*)
- How did Jesus address this Samaritan? (*He called her Woman—John 4:21*)
- Why did He tell the Parable of the Good Samaritan? (To show that anyone can have compassion on his neighbor— Luke 10:29-37).
- In this parable, who else passed by and ignored the wounded man? (*a priest and Levite—descendents of Levi who had charge of the Temple— Luke 10:31-32.*)
- Why did Jesus use the Religious men as examples in this parable? (*To show that they kept the Law but ignored the obvious need.*)
- Do you ignore obvious needs of those around you?
- Do you know people who have given up on their situation or refuse to believe there's hope for change? What might be their problem? (*They could be hooked on drugs, alcohol, pornography, or some other harmful activity.*) Do these people want to be healed?
- What did Jesus ask the man at the pool of Bethesda? (*"Wilt thou be made whole? Do you want to be healed?"— John 5:6*) Why? (*It's difficult to help someone who doesn't want to be helped.*)
- What does Jesus require of anyone who is healed physically or Spiritually? (*To believe, to do, and to act—John 5:8.*)
- Write the names of God from each section of the study in your journal: *Jehovah Rapha* (the God who heals); *El Roi* (the God who sees; *Jehovah-Sabbath* (the Lord of Hosts, mighty in battle); *Jehovah-Nissi* (the Lord our banner, the Lord our miracle).

**Reflection:** Dismiss in prayer. Thank God for being a woman who He heals, sees, protects, and loves. Give Him all the honor and glory for everything in your life.

### ***FINAL THOUGHTS...***

Liberty was healed, and she likely never forgot the Savior who freed her from her disability. So thankful that God knew her name, no doubt she went her way singing His praises. God knows my name, too. That is just so amazing to me. He knew me before I was born. He calls me daughter, Carolyn, or Woman. It doesn't matter to me. What matters is that I need to be so in tune with the Holy Spirit that I can hear and answer Him. I want to believe, to witness, and to work. It is my job to obey. Don't be afraid when you hear Jesus say, "Woman." Recognize your name and respond with eagerness.