

### Reflection Monday Week 30 – 2023

There is a certain irony in the miracle Jesus performs of healing the woman bent double. It becomes an allegory of the people who enforce the law being bent double by the very laws they believe set them free. It also shows us that Jesus came to set us free from all that prevents us from doing the good of which we are capable. Freed from all that binds us leaves us free to serve others.

The other challenging question is whether we are people who instantly see the negative in everything we experience or encounter especially new ideas and proposals or do we see the good and promote it? The synagogue official only saw Jesus breaking a rule as he understood it. He did not give a second thought to the woman who had been bent double for eighteen years being freed to walk upright with dignity and honour.

On the subject of evil, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states that 386. *Sin is present in human history; any attempt to ignore it or to give this dark reality other names would be futile. To better understand what sin is, one must first recognize the profound relations of us to God, for only in this relationship is the evil of sin unmasked in its true identity. It is humanity's rejection of God and opposition to him, even as it continues to weigh heavy on human life and history.*

387 *Without the knowledge Revelation gives of God we cannot recognize sin clearly and are tempted to explain it as merely a developmental flaw, a psychological weakness, a mistake, or the necessary consequence of an inadequate social structure, etc. Only in the knowledge of God's plan for man can we grasp that sin is an abuse of the freedom that God gives to created persons so that they are capable of loving him and loving one another.*