T.D. JAKES

WOMAN, THOU ART LOOSED!

DEVOTIONAL

BETHANYHOUSE

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Cover design by Eric Walljasper

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Published by Bethany House Publishers 11400 Hampshire Avenue South Bloomington, Minnesota 55438

Bethany House Publishers is a division of Baker Publishing Group, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN 978-0-7642-0450-0

Library of Congress has cataloged the original edition as follows:

Jakes, T.D.

Woman, thou art loosed! : devotional / by T.D. Jakes.

p. cm

ISBN 1-57778-020-5

MLCS 98/10496

1997

98-149729

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To all the women across the world
who have received healing and restoration through the
"Woman, Thou Art Loosed!" message.

Your healing has made my life more meaningful.

It is my prayer that this devotional will assist you
in keeping the chains of the past from
refastening themselves in your life.

When all is said and done, you are a significant part
of the pulsebeat of God's divine purpose in the earth.

Maintain your focus, and whatever you do . . .

keep moving!

CONTENTS

Pi	art One: Loosed From Poor Self-Image 15
	One: You Are a Designer's Original 21
-	Two: There's No Comparison! 25
	Three: God Had a Good Idea 29
	Four: Your Inner and Outer Beauty 35
	Five: The Wellspring of Your Attractiveness 39
	Su: Agreeing With God's Opinion of You 45
	Seven: The Call for You 51
	Eight: God Still Has a Plan 57
	Nine: Overcoming a Generational Curse 61
	Ten: Releasing the Hidden Treasure Within You
	Eleven: You Hold a Key to Deliverance 71

Part Two: Loosed From Past Failures 77

Twelve: You Were Created for Wholeness and Life 81

Thirteen: Shut the Door! 85

Fourteen: Stand in His Strength 89

Fifteen: Refuse to Be Killed 95

Sixteen: Dealing With Your Cains and Abels 99

Seventeen: Let Go of Your Past 105

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**Eighteen: There's More Life Ahead 111

**Nineteen: Your Appointed Seed 117

**Twenty: Keep Your Appointment 121

**Dart Three: Loosed to Express Emotions 125

**Twenty-One: You Were Made to Express Emotions 131

**Twenty-Two: Your Emotions and Your Spirit 135

**Twenty-Three: Touching God With Your Feelings 141

**Twenty-Four: What Do You Want Enough to Cry for It? 147

**Dart Four: Loosed From a Spirit of Infirmity 151

**Iwenty-Five: The Nature of Your Deliverance 155

**Iwenty-Six: An Inner Work 161

**Iwenty-Seven: Loosed From Whom? 165

**Iwenty-Sight: Your Tailor-Made Infirmity 169

**Iwenty-Nine: Lose What You've Been Loosed From! 173

**Ihirty: Give God Your Praise 177

**Ihirty-One: Don't Break Your Rhythm 181

**Ihirty-Iwe: Secure Your Deliverance 185

**Dart Five: Loosed and Made Whole 189

**Thirty-Three: The Drain on Your Life 193

**Thirty-Four: Own Up to Your Problem and Take It to Jesus! 197

Thirty-Five: Yes, a Woman Like You! 203

T.D. Jakes, Woman Thou Art Loosed!

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Thirty-Six: Seize the Miracle Moment 207 Thirty-Seven: Press On! 211

**Dart Six: Loosed to Live in the Now 215

**Thirty-Eight: We All Are Born "Unclean" 219

**Thirty-Nine: Cut the Cord 225

**Forty: Washed, Salted, and Swaddled 229

**Forty-One: Have Compassion on Yourself 233

**Forty-Two: Live! 237

**Forty-Three: Move From the Past to NOW 24

**Forty-Four: The Process of Wholeness 245

**Forty-Five: Raised to Maturity for the Purpose of Ministry 249

Introduction

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO BE LOOSED!

Someone once said to me, "I heard about your *Woman*, *Thou Art Loosed!* presentation. The Bible tells us that in Christ there is no male or female. You ought to just preach, *Thou Art Loosed!*" I said to this person, "I think I'm going to continue to say what Jesus said." And what Jesus said is, "Woman, thou art loosed!"

One of the issues that we must come to grips with is that those of us who are born again do not have a problem in our spirit. If we have been truly born again, our essence—what I call our "is-ness"—has been changed. We have been given an incorruptible nature in our spirit and we are forever changed.

The problem lies in our soul—that part of us that gives rise to our minds, emotions, memories, affections, and desires. If we were only spirit, we would have no need to be loosed of anything once we were born again. But we are not just spirit. We still live in a fleshly body and we have a worldly soul that needs to be transformed. That is a process that continues after our salvation experience.

Some of those things that tie up a woman in her soul are directly related to her feminine heart. They are part of her feminine nature, not her spirit.

God wants to loose something in the souls of women today. There's something He desires to set free. I believe that today is the day God wants to loose you in your heart,

your attitude, your emotions, your spirit, your finances, your marriage, your work, your ministry, your praise.

He wants you to experience a freedom in Him—a freedom from temptation,

sin,

guilt,

things that are past,

relationships that are over

in order that you might LIVE.

God has a healing for your thoughts,

your emotions,

your attitudes.

He desires to heal you completely.

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And then once you are loosed and made whole, His desire is that you never,

ever,

ever,

ever

go back into bondage again.

Jesus wants to make you whole. Are you willing to let Him do His work in you?



Loosed From Poor Self-Image

An Unwanted Woman

Leah was the elder daughter of Laban and the older sister of Rachel. She was the ugly duckling in the family, the "old maid." When Jacob went to work for Laban, he fell in love with Rachel and was willing to work seven long years to have her as his wife. Laban, however, tricked Jacob into marrying Leah first and then he required seven *more* years of labor from Jacob for Rachel. Leah was the unwanted bride, a woman scorned in favor of her beautiful, younger sister.

God, however, had a plan and purpose for Leah. He had created her for a divine role in His eternal plan, and when He saw that Leah was despised by Jacob, He opened her womb and allowed her to bear children. In all, she bore six sons and one daughter—her sons became the founders of six of the twelve tribes of Israel.

From the Scriptures:

And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.

Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured.

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- And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.
- And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me.
- And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.
- And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her.
- And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast.
- And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her.
- And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an handmaid.
- And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?
- And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the first born.
- Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years.
- And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also.
- And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid.
- And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.
- And when the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened

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her womb: but Rachel was barren.

And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben.

GENESIS 29:16-32



YOU ARE A DESIGNER'S ORIGINAL

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

PSALM 139:14

One of the things that makes the high-fashion designs of the New York and Paris designers so expensive is that they are one-of-a-kind creations. A woman who buys a *haute couture* design from the House of Chanel or Yves St. Laurant knows that she isn't going to see her dress on any other woman. She knows that she is going to own a garment that is superbly crafted, in many cases hand-stitched and custom-tailored to fit her like a soft leather glove fits a hand. She knows that every aspect of the design of her garment has been carefully conceived and crafted.

She is willing to pay a high price for owning an original design.

And so it *should* be when we look at our own lives. God has put us together in a way that cannot be replicated and should not be replicated. He chose every aspect of our personalities, crafted every gift and talent He bestowed on us, and gave special thought to every one of our features and traits. We were handcrafted by Him in our mother's womb. He custom-made us to fit a specific role in His sovereign plan for the ages.

Leah was created and crafted and chosen for a specific purpose in God's plan, even though for much of her life she didn't know that.

She was a "designer's original."

And so are you.

God made you to be one of a kind.

Your fingerprint is different than that of anyone else—not only anyone alive today, but anyone who has ever lived.

The same goes for your handprint,

footprint,

voiceprint,

and your entire genetic code. Nobody else has ever had the combination of physical traits that you have. Nobody else has precisely your set of genes.

And even if you did have the exact genetic makeup as another person, you would still be unique. Nobody else has been placed by God in *exactly*

your family,

in your neighborhood,

to have your friends and acquaintances,

in your city and state,

or to be a part of your church. Nobody else like you has been put on the earth at exactly this moment in history. Nobody else has had the exact set of experiences that you have had in your life. Nobody else has the same set of talents and personality quirks and strengths and weaknesses and abilities and disabilities and skills and training and connections that you have.

God designed you to live in a physical body that is especially adapted to this earth. He designed you with a specific number of hairs on your head and heartbeats in your heart. He knows the length of your days and the outer limits of your potential. He designed you with facets and dimensions that you may not even know!

God didn't create you to be static and unchanging. He made you with the ability to grow

and to develop and to change and to adapt.

Only God does not change. People change. We age whether we want to or not. We perspire whether we want to or not.

As part of your ability to change and grow, God gave you the power of a free will—the power to choose and to make decisions and to exert your own creativity. He gave you the ability to change how you think about God and how you think about yourself. In other words, God gave you the ability to turn from sin and turn to Him. He gave you the ability to repent of the sins of your past and walk in the paths of holiness.

Nobody else is put together exactly as you have been put together by God. Nobody has *ever* been just like you. And nobody will ever be just like you.

God doesn't repeat Himself.

Therefore . . .

Since there are no other women who could possibly be you, you may as well go ahead and be you, and acknowledge that it's good to be you!

Have you developed an appreciation for your own individuality? Do you like "the you" that God designed you to be?

Do you wait for someone else to give you a compliment? Or can you look at yourself in the mirror and say, "This is how God made me, and I can work with that!"

Have you ever celebrated yourself? Have you ever praised God for the way He made you? If not, today is a good day to start!

Celebrate today the fact that you are the Designer's original! There's nobody like you.



THERE'S NO COMPARISON!

Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured.

GENESIS 29:17

Leah ... but Rachel.

Leah and Rachel were compared to one another. Not by God. Not according to who they were on the *inside*. Leah and Rachel were compared to one another by people according to who they were on the *outside*.

God never asks us to compare ourselves with any other person. In fact, it is a slap in God's face to look at another person and say, "I wish I were more like her."

Why? Because God tenderly and uniquely designed you to be just the way He wanted you to be. He made you for Himself. He made you in a way that can never be duplicated.

When you begin to compare yourself to another person, you T.D. Jakes, Woman Thou Art Loosed!

are saying to God, "God, I think You made a mistake here. You could have done a better job in creating me." None of us has the privilege or right to criticize God in that way. He is the Creator who looks at each of His created beings and says to Himself, "It is good."

I am always amazed that women who are so concerned about making certain that they never wear the same dress that another woman is wearing to a special function or to a church service, and who will go through all kinds of hairstyle and makeup changes to make sure that they don't appear to be copying someone else's "look," fail to apply that same principle to the way they see their own bodies, personalities, abilities, and inner attractiveness. They wouldn't dream of copying the way another woman dresses, but they desire to copy the way she is and to duplicate the way she acts, the way she talks, the way she performs, and the things that she has.

The fact is, everybody is attractive in one way or another.

The tragedy related to developing our own sense of attractiveness is twofold: We compare ourselves to others, and we allow others to define for us what is attractive.

It is dangerous to give that much power to another person—so that their opinion affects your own self-esteem and their definition becomes so contagious that if they do not affirm you, you don't affirm yourself.

We each must get to the place where we hold a high opinion of ourselves solely on the basis of the fact that God made us exactly,

precisely,

intricately,

wondrously,

and uniquely the way we are. Each of us is a one-of-a-kind creation for which there is no comparison!

God made you for His own purposes in order that you might reflect a unique aspect of His own glory.

Are you so busy scrutinizing your faults and failures that you fail to recognize your uniqueness?

Are you so busy studying and analyzing somebody else that you fail to appreciate what God has given you?

Are you so busy trying to change yourself that you have neglected to praise God for who He made you to be in the first place?

When you cease to compare yourself to others and refuse to be intimidated by what other people think and say, you are then in the position to

birth that business that God wants you to birth, birth that ministry that God wants you to birth, birth that effort to change your community that God wants you to birth.

How dare you compare yourself to somebody else! God wanted you to be *you*. Nobody else but *you*!



Thank God today for making you exactly the way you are and for transforming you day by day into exactly the woman He wants you to be. You are without comparison in His eyes!