

## **Sabbath Controversy: Healing a Man's Withered Hand**

**Matthew 12:9-14**

**Mark 3:1-6**

**Luke 6:6-11**

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### **Texts:**

#### **Matthew 12:9-14,**

- 9. Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue,**
- 10. and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"**
- 11. He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out?"**
- 12. How much more valuable is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."**
- 13. Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other.**
- 14. But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.**

#### **Mark 3:1-6,**

- 1. Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there.**
- 2. Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath.**
- 3. Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone."**
- 4. Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent.**
- 5. He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.**

**6. Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.**

**Luke 6:6-11,**

**6. On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and he was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled.**

**7. The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath.**

**8. But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Get up and stand in front of everyone.” So he got up and stood there.**

**9. Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?”**

**10. He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was completely restored.**

**11. But they were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.**

**Commentary:**

I. Jesus went on a Sabbath day to a synagogue, and there encountered a man with a withered hand.

A. This event transpired on the Sabbath.

B. Some scribes and Pharisees at the synagogue asked Jesus, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath day?” Jesus repeated the question.

1. Jesus answered questions with questions.

**2. Matthew 21:24, Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things.**

**3. Luke 10:29, But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”**

C. They were not sincere in asking this question but simply wanted to find some excuse for accusing Jesus. Plotting against Jesus was considered acceptable Sabbath behavior by these Jews.

D. This appears to be a continuance of the conflict regarding eating grain as Jesus walked through the field on the Sabbath.

**1. Matthew 12:1-8, At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.” He answered, “Haven’t you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread – which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. Or haven’t you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent? I tell you that one greater than the temple is here. If you had known what these words mean, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice,” you would not have condemned the innocent. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”**

II. Jesus knew their thoughts and pointed out to the accusers that they certainly would lift a sheep out of a ditch on the Sabbath day. **John**

**2:25, He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.**

**A. Exodus 23:4, 5, "If you come across your enemy's ox or donkey wandering off, be sure to take it back to him. If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, do not leave it there; be sure you help him with it.**

**B. Deuteronomy 22:4, If you see your brother's donkey or his ox fallen on the road, do not ignore it. Help him get it to its feet.**

C. Jesus affirmed: (1) a person is of more value than a sheep, (2) it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath, (3) it is lawful to save life anytime.

D. It is never right to do harm or destroy life. Failing to heal this man (doing nothing) on the Sabbath would be doing him harm.

**E. Matthew 5:17, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.**

F. The Jewish religious traditions made it permissible to help a sheep but not a person on the Sabbath.

G. What ridiculous notions can you identify in today's religions?

III. Jesus then healed the man's hand.

A. What if the man had refused to stand and to extend his hand? Would he have been healed?

- B. Before God blesses we must do our part, demonstrate our faith!
- C. Withholding good is equal to doing harm.
- D. What was the character of this man? It really didn't matter and had no bearing on the case.

IV. The Pharisees and Herodians went out filled with hatred and held a meeting to figure out some way they could destroy Jesus! These enemies were "mad," not acting rationally.

- A. These religious people are not interested in knowing and doing the right thing!
- B. They were trying to trump up a charge. Do police and prosecutors ever do this in our day?
- C. **John 5:18, For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own father, making himself equal with God.**
- D. While Jesus was healing on the Sabbath, his enemies were plotting to kill him on the Sabbath. This was o.k.?

V. Jesus had:

- A. shown his power to work miracles.
- B. worked miracles contrary to the rules of the religious hierarchy.
- C. in this way shown he was from God.

D. openly and publicly condemned their views.

E. revealed the true character of his enemies.

F. shown that his enemies had made the word of God of no value through enforcement of their traditions.

VI. Jesus healed a number of people on the Sabbath; viz.,

A. Capernaum demoniac. **Mark 1:21, 23, 24, they went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out.**

B. Simon's wife's mother. **Mark 1:29, 30, As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her.**

C. Man at Bethesda. **John 5:9, At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.**

D. Man with withered hand. **Luke 6:10, 11, He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was completely restored. But they were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.**

E. Man born blind. **John 9:14, Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath.**

F. Woman with an infirmity. **Luke 13:14, Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue rulers said to the people, “There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.”**

G. Healing a man with dropsy. **Luke 14:1, One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.**

VII. These Jews had no answer to questions posed by Jesus.

A. They “held their peace;” that is, were silent/speechless.

B. Jesus looked upon them with anger! May he never look upon us with anger.

C. **Matthew 22:7, The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.**

## Sabbath Controversy: Healing a Man's Withered Hand

### Questions

1. Jesus went into the \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and found a man there with a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Jesus' enemies, looking for a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
him, asked him, "Is it \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ on the  
\_\_\_\_\_?"

3. Would Jesus' enemies rescue a sheep on the Sabbath if it had fallen  
into a pit? \_\_\_\_\_ Would Jesus' enemies have healed a sick  
person on the Sabbath? \_\_\_\_\_ What ridiculous religious  
position like this do we hold? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Jesus said, "A \_\_\_\_\_ is more valuable than a  
\_\_\_\_\_. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to do \_\_\_\_\_ on  
the \_\_\_\_\_."

5. Jesus ordered the man, "Stretch out your \_\_\_\_\_." When  
the man did as Jesus had commanded, his hand was \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, just as sound as the other.

6. People who \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus are blessed!

7. The Pharisees, having witnessed this miraculous healing,  
\_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ how they might  
\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

8. How do we react when the preacher “steps on our toes?” \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Jesus looked around at his enemies in \_\_\_\_\_ and with  
\_\_\_\_\_ at their \_\_\_\_\_.

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10. When do you think Jesus has looked down on us in anger? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. It is never right to do \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Neglecting to help this man with a withered hand on  
the Sabbath would have been a \_\_\_\_\_.

12. What if the man had refused to stand and extend his hand as Jesus  
commanded? Would he have been healed? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. What if we refuse to obey Jesus' commands? Will we be blessed?

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14. \_\_\_\_\_ is equal to \_\_\_\_\_.

15. Jesus healed the following seven people on the Sabbath:

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