



Title: Gospel of Mark: Jesus and the withered hand.

Scripture: Mark 3:1-12

Date: 06252023

Bible Version: NKJV

BOTTOM LINE: Jesus can bring healing and purpose to our lives.

The Man With a Withered Hand and The Pharisees. (Vs. 1-6)

Vs. 1

He entered the synagogue again - As we have seen before, Jesus would use opportunities to reach people. Here we see Him enter another synagogue.

A man was there who had a withered hand- Inside the synagogue we see that there was a man with a withered hand. It is probably best for us to understand that his hand was paralyzed. Although his feet were able to take him where he needed to go, only one of his hands was usable.

Vs. 2

So they watched Him closely - The Pharisees would now watch Jesus closely.

They were not watching Him to learn from Him, they were watching with a critical eye.

The religious leaders watched Jesus closely but with no heart of love for Him. They knew about Jesus, but they did not know Him. - David Guzik

Whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him - The Pharisees wanted to catch Jesus in a trap. It was the Sabbath and they wanted to see if he would perform 'work' on the Sabbath.

The question never arose of if Jesus could heal this man, the question was would He heal him on the Sabbath.

The Pharisees were less interested in the miraculous and more focused on the law.

Vs. 3

Step Forward - Here in this synagogue, Jesus invited this man with a withered hand to step forward.

Vs. 4

Then He said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” - Jesus would now address the Pharisees. According to their sabbath traditions, if someone was injured in some way, you could do something to keep their injury from getting worse, but making it better would be considered ‘work’. Knowing this, Jesus asks them this very direct question.

But they kept silent - It was the sabbath and Jesus was simply trying to heal this afflicted man. Since this went against their tradition they did not know how to answer the question directly. Their answer was silence.

There is never a wrong day to do something truly good. - David Guzik

Vs. 5

He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by their hardness of their hearts - Here we see Jesus' righteous anger on display. He saw the hardness of their hearts and was moved to anger.

*Jesus was filled with both anger and grief over the hardness of their hearts.
- Tony Evans*

He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand” - He then focused on the man with a withered hand. He commanded him to stretch out his hand.

Jesus healed this man by asking him to do what he was incapable of doing. He needed divine help.

His hand was restored as whole as the other - The result of this man obeying Jesus is that he got to see a move of God that directly impacted Him. His hand had been restored.

Jesus could have waited until the next day to heal this man and there would not have been any issues.

Jesus saw a ministry opportunity and took it on with compassion.

Vs. 6

The Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him - While the Pharisees were a conservative religious group, the Herodians were not. They were a political group of Jews who supported King Herod and his rule. Two unlikely groups would come together over their dislike of Jesus.

The Multitudes Come To Jesus. (Vs. 7-12)

Vs. 7-8

Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea - Seeing what was going on, Jesus and His disciples withdrew to the sea.

A great multitude from Galilee followed Him - Like before, wherever Jesus went, a great multitude often followed.

When they heard how many things He was doing, came to Him - The reason why so many people were interested in Jesus is because they had heard of the things He had done.

Vs. 9

He told His disciples that a small boat should be kept ready for him - Jesus knew that people were interested in seeing Him. Their interest may have been self-serving and focused on what Jesus could do for them right here, right now.

Vs. 10

He healed many, so that as many as had afflictions pressed about Him to touch Him - Regardless of how they came, Jesus healed many with a simple touch.

It is wonderful for people to be attracted to Jesus. But if their focus is on what He can do for them instead of Who He is, they will not follow Him for long. - David Guzik

Vs. 11

The unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him -

Like we have seen before, the unclean spirits knew who Jesus was. Their only response was to fall down before Him.

Saying, “you are the Son of God.” - These unclean spirits were right in addressing Jesus as the Son of God.

Our Lord had now reached a crisis in His ministry. Great crowds were following Him, but their interest was not in things spiritual. - Warren Wiersbe

Vs. 12

He sternly warned them that they should not make Him known - As

Jesus continued to heal people, others would take note. Jesus commanded the demons to be quiet. He did not want their demonic testimony to confuse people.

Three Responses That The Man With A Withered Hand Could Have When Jesus Called Him To Stretch Out His Hand:

1. Do nothing.
2. Stretch out his hand but not believe anything would happen.
3. Stretch out his hand in faith and wait for God to move in his life.

3D Guide

DO. **BOTTOM LINE:** Jesus can bring healing and purpose to our lives.



DIG DEEPER

1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



DISCUSS.

1. Describe in your own words how this man with a withered hand felt when Jesus asked him to stretch out his hand.
2. What can we learn from this man's faith to trust Jesus?
3. What are some ways we can apply this scripture to your lives?

DO.



Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.