

Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas

August 16, 2026 – Sent by the King: Stretch Out Your Hand

Main Passage: Matthew 12:9–14

Main Idea:

Jesus calls us to trust His word, respond in faith, and release the pride and control that keep us from receiving His mercy.

1) Mercy Is Lawful on the Sabbath (*Matthew 12:9–12*)

Supporting Scriptures: *Hosea 6:6; Micah 6:8; Mark 2:27–28; James 2:13*

- The Pharisees use a suffering man as bait for an accusation against Jesus.
- Their question sounds biblical, but their trap is built on human tradition.
- They make room to rescue their own property but not to restore a suffering man.
- A person is worth far more than a sheep.
- God's law never requires us to withhold mercy or refuse to do good.
- Jesus reveals the goodness and mercy the Sabbath was meant to reflect.

2) Faith Responds to the Word of Jesus (*Matthew 12:13*)

Supporting Scriptures: *Genesis 6:22; Gen. 12:1–4; Hebrews 11:7–8; James 2:17*

- Jesus commands the man to do what appears impossible: "Stretch out your hand."
- The man does not demand an explanation or wait until he feels a change.
- The power is not in the man's movement; the power is in Jesus.
- His response demonstrates trust in the One who gave the command.
- Faith is acting on the word of someone we have learned to trust.

3) Self-Righteousness Tightens Its Grip (*Matthew 12:14*)

Supporting Scriptures: *John 11:47–48; Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23; Rom. 10:3, 9, 13*

- The Pharisees see the miracle and plot to kill the One who performed it.
- Jesus threatens their rules, reputation, position, and control.
- Self-righteousness seeks to establish its own goodness rather than submit to God's.
- Religious activity cannot erase sin or make us righteous before God.
- Eternal life is God's gift in Christ; a gift is received, not earned.
- Jesus opened His hands on the cross so sinners could receive grace.

Takeaways

- Human tradition must never replace the truth and mercy of God's Word.
- Faith does not require the whole plan; it trusts Jesus enough to take the next step.
- The power is not in our effort or movement; the power is in Jesus.
- Self-righteousness holds tightly to control, while grace teaches us to receive.
- Jesus opened His hands on the cross; we can trust Him enough to open ours.

Questions for Reflection

1. What am I still gripping that Jesus is asking me to release?
2. What command of Jesus have fear or unanswered questions kept me from obeying?
3. Am I asking Jesus to show me the whole plan before I take the next faithful step?
4. Am I trusting in Christ's righteousness, or am I still trying to establish my own?
5. Have I opened my hand to receive God's gift of grace through faith in Jesus Christ?

Bottom Line

Faith opens its hand to Jesus; self-righteousness tightens its grip.

"We can manufacture a thousand questions when Jesus has asked us to take one step."

"He opened His hands for you. You can trust Him enough to open yours."