

# Miracles in Mark

## Lesson 5 - Jesus Heals a Man with a Withered Hand

### Mark 3.1-12

#### BACKGROUND & CONTEXT:

**LOCATION:** Capernaum? Inside a synagogue.

**TIME:** Sabbath Day

#### CHARACTERS:

Jesus	Man with withered hand	Pharisees
Scribes	Crowds inside synagogue	

#### PARALLEL TEXTS:

Matthew 12.9-14; Luke 6.6-11

#### NOTES ON THE TEXT:

- Jesus had just taught that He is “Lord of the Sabbath.” (2.23-28).
- On another Sabbath (the next Sabbath?) Jesus enters the Synagogue to teach (Luke 6.6).
  - Jesus knew He was being closely watched. Scribes/Pharisees were there to see if they could find charges against Him. He knew their thoughts (Luke 6.8).
    - Matthew 12.10 - they ask - “is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”
    - Calls man with withered hand forward and makes His statement - 3.3-4
      - Some believe man suffered an injury - leading to his condition here.
      - Apocryphal says man was a stone mason who had pleaded to Jesus for help because he did not want to live rest of his life as a beggar.
- Jesus was filled with anger & grief because of the hardness of their heart.
  - 3.5, Jesus heals the man.
- Pharisee’s belief on Sabbath Law:
  - Only in such cases where a man’s life in danger would it be permissible to heal on the Sabbath.
  - Esteemed manmade rituals above God ordained concern about a person’s welfare.
- Jesus’ statement, “do harm...kill,” had reference to the Pharisees and Scribes. They were planning to kill Jesus.
- Jesus’ anger & grief:
  - Anger at their cold and uncaring hearts
  - Grieved at their insensibility; obstinacy.
- Pharisees/scribes left extremely angry.
  - No happiness for the man who had just been healed.
  - Upset that in front of everyone, their traditions and suffered a humiliating defeat.
- Herodians
  - Family of Herod Antipas
  - Very worldly; would have been no friend of Jesus.
  - Strange alliance?
    - Not necessarily. *Enemy of my enemy is my friend.*
    - Herodians were no friend of Jesus:

- Jesus opposed the lifestyle they lived
- They loved the political status quo. They would have perceived Jesus as a threat to that. Jesus' large followings could lead to rebellion and revolution...of which their position in society & w/the Romans would be threatened.

**FOR A 21st CENTURY AUDIENCE:**

- **God is concerned about our honoring Him through obedience, but equally important is our regard for other people.**
  - See Isaiah 58.6-14
- **Righteous anger is OK.**
  - 3.5 - Jesus looked at them with righteous anger.
  - Anger tempered with grief.
    - While the anger might have been a "short flash", the grief would have been deep, continuous, and abiding.