

## The Healing Of The Man With The Withered Hand

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**Matthew 12:9-13; Mark 3:1-5; Luke 6:6-11**

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**Matthew**, **Mark**, and **Luke** each record this particular miracle of **Christ** regarding a man with a withered hand. This particular miracle, like all the miracles of **Christ** is a manifestation of **Christ's authority, grace, mercy** and **power**. This miraculous healing like the others that **Christ** performed is a beautiful picture of the saving operations of His grace in and upon chosen sinners.

### I. THE BACKGROUND OF THIS MIRACLE

#### ① **The Place Of The Miracle:**

The place of this miracle was the **synagogue**. **Matthew** writes “**He (Jesus), went into their synagogue**” (12:9), and **Mark** writes “**And He entered again (indicating that this was His habit), into the synagogue**” (3:1), and **Luke** writes “**And it came to pass also on another sabbath that He entered into the synagogue**” (6:6). **Luke** also records, that while in **synagogue** that He “**taught**” (6:6). **Jesus** often taught in the **Jewish synagogues** (**Matthew 13:54; Mark 1:21; 6:2; Luke 4:16; John 6:59; 18:20**). **Luke** records that this was his practice or routine; “**and as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read**” (**Luke 4:16**).

#### ② **The Time Of This Miracle:**

**Matthew**, **Mark**, and **Luke** all record that this particular miracle took place on the **Sabbath**. Again, there are seven recorded healing miracles of **Christ** that took place on the **Sabbath**. **Jesus** intentionally healed on the **Sabbath** for the purpose of **manifesting His authority over the Sabbath**, for the purpose of **correcting and rebuking the Jewish leaders of their abuse of the Sabbath**, for the purpose of **unmasking the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders concerning the Sabbath**, and for the purpose of **teaching the people concerning the Sabbath**. Leading up to this particular miracle, **Jesus** entered into a conversation with the **scribes** and **Pharisees** about appropriate **Sabbath** day works (**Matthew 12:11-12; Mark 3:4; Luke 6:9**).

#### ③ **Those Who Witnessed This Miracle:**

The **scribes** and **Pharisees** were there in that particular **synagogue** on that particular **Sabbath**, and their purpose for being there is stated by **Matthew**, **Mark**, and **Luke** (**Matthew 12:10; Mark 3:2; Luke 6:7**). **Luke** records in his account that **Jesus** knew the thoughts and intents of these so-called “**religious leaders**” (**Luke 6:8**). **BEFORE THEY SPOKE A WORD, THE LORD KNEW THEIR HEARTS** (**Proverbs 15:11**).

## II. THE MIRACLE OF HEALING

### ① *The Lord Had A Purpose:*

It is recorded three times that **Jesus** went into the **synagogue** (**Matthew 12:9; Mark 3:1; Luke 6:6**). Without a doubt, He did so with a **purpose!** It was His purpose to go into that particular **synagogue** on that particular **Sabbath** to **teach**, and it was His purpose to enter that particular **synagogue** on that particular **Sabbath** to **confront** the **scribes** and **Pharisees** that would be there. But His main **objective**, His main **aim**, and **motivation** for going to that particular **synagogue** on that particular **Sabbath** was to **do a miraculous work upon a particular individual!**

### ② *The Recipient Of The Miracle:*

In each account there is the mention of a particular man (**Matthew 12:10; Mark 3:1; Luke 6:6**). There is no mention of who this man is, and there is no mention of his background or life. The only thing recorded of him is that his hand was **“withered”** (**shriveled**). **Luke**, being a physician did record that it was his **“right hand”** that **“was withered”** (**Luke 6:6**). No mention is made as to how this came about, or how long this had been the case. **BUT WE ARE SPECIFICALLY TOLD THAT THIS MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND WAS THERE!** In fact, **Matthew** writes **“behold (a note of exclamation to draw attention), there was a man which had his hand withered”** (**Matthew 12:10**). Why this man came to the **synagogue** that day, or what his mindset was is unknown. It is possible that he was planted there by the **scribes** and **Pharisees**, so that they could entrap **Christ!** One thing for certain **CHRIST WAS THERE FOR HIM THAT DAY!**

### ③ *There Was A Choice Made:*

In the **synagogue** that day besides the **scribes**, the **Pharisees**, and the man with the **“withered hand”** were no doubt, many others who had great needs. But with the accusatory eyes of the **scribes** and **Pharisees** upon **Christ**, we read **“he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth”** (**Mark 3:3**), and in **Luke’s** account **“and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst”** (**Luke 6:8**). Of all the people in the **synagogue** that day; He **“said unto the man which had the withered hand”** **THE LORD HAD SELECTED AND HAD COME FOR THIS MAN!** It was while this man with **“the withered hand”** was standing in the midst that **Jesus** put forth a question to the **scribes** and **Pharisees** (**Mark 3:4; Luke 6:9**).

### ④ *There Was A Call That Went Forth:*

**Jesus** called upon this man with **“the withered hand”** to **rise** and to **stand!** **JESUS CALLED THIS MAN BECAUSE HE WAS ABOUT TO PERFORM A MIRACLE UPON HIM!** **Luke** records that in response **“he arose and stood forth”** (**Luke 6:8**). With this man now standing in the midst, **Jesus** looked upon those **scribes** and **Pharisees** with

**anger** and **grief** “for the hardness of their hearts” (**Mark 3:5**), and then HE CALLED UPON THE MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND TO DO SOMETHING THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO DO “stretch forth thine hand” (**Matthew 12:13; Mark 3:5; Luke 6:10**). This man’s hand was shriveled and paralyzed and in and of himself he could not stretch it forth! He was called upon to do something that he could not do! A MIRACLE WAS NEEDED! The command to the **unsaved sinner** is **come, repent, and believe**, and he can do none of these things in and of himself! A MIRACLE IS NEEDED! This call and command “Stretch forth thine hand” addressed the very essence of the problem! It is not “rub your withered hand with your other hand” It is not “wash your withered hand” **These things he could do in and of himself!** But it is “Stretch forth thine hand” THIS WAS THE VERY THING THAT HE COULD NOT DO!

#### 5 The Man’s Response To The Call:

**Matthew** says “And he stretched it forth” (**12:13**), and **Mark** says “And he stretched it out” (**3:5**), and **Luke** says “And he did so” (**6:10**). He stretched it forth, believing that **Christ was able!** THIS IS ALL DUE TO THE EFFECTUAL MIRACULOUS POWER OF GOD! If you were to ask this man “Did you stretch forth your withered hand?” He could answer “Yes, I did” but if you were to ask him “Did you of your own ability stretch forth your withered hand?” He would answer very emphatically “NO! It was due to a miraculous work of God!”

#### 6 The Result Of Obedience To The Call:

**Matthew, Mark,** and **Luke** all record that “his hand was restored whole” (**Matthew 12:13; Mark 3:5; Luke 6:10**). Due to the miraculous power of **Christ** that “withered hand” was “restored” His hand was fixed, reconstructed, and reinstated! It was “restored whole” **completely, and entirely!** The healing was **immediate**, it was **manifest**, and it was **permanent!** THIS MAN’S LIFE AND HIS WAY OF LIVING WAS CHANGED FROM THAT DAY FORWARD!

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This marvelous healing miracle intensified the **hatred** and **malice** of the **scribes** and **Pharisees** and only served to escalate their **rage** toward Him (**Matthew 12:14; Mark 3:6; Luke 6:11**). But the man with “the withered hand” went home from that meeting with **Jesus**, with his “withered hand.....restored whole” HE WENT HOME A DIFFERENT MAN, ALL BECAUSE OF JESUS!

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