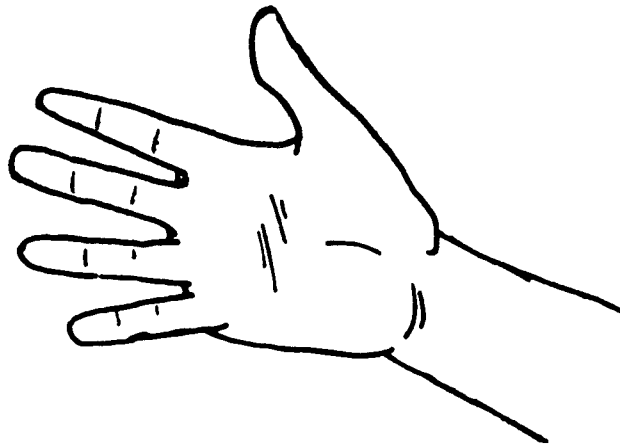


STRETCH FORTH THY HAND

**(The miracle of the withered hand.)
Luke 6:1-10**



IN THE SYNAGOGUE:

- * Jesus honored the man's faithfulness
- * Jesus honored the man's fortitude
- * Jesus honored the man's faith

“Jesus said unto the man, ‘Stretch forth thy hand’. And he did so, and his hand was restored whole as the other” (v.10)

Bill Kirk

“STRETCH FORTH THY HAND”

Text: Luke 6:1-11

Subject: The Healing Of The Man With The Withered Hand

“Jesus said unto the man, “Stretch forth thy hand”. And he did so; and his hand was restored as the other” (v. 10)

Introduction

Fact: Jesus has just returned from Galilee.

Fact: He becomes involved with the Pharisees who argue over the Sabbath day.

Fact: The Pharisees turned the Sabbath into a burden instead of a blessing.

Fact: They lost the spiritual significance as the day of rest.

Fact: They exchanged it for a day of ceremonial law and constraint.

Fact: And Jesus takes the opportunity to reveal one thing:

◆ That He is more concerned about meeting the needs of His people, than protecting a religious rule.

#1. Jesus Takes Us To The Cornfield in verses 1-5.

- ◆ In (v. 1), the disciples pluck the ears of corn (wheat). They pick the heads of wheat, rub them in their hands and eat because of hunger.
- ◆ (In v. 2), the Pharisees criticize Jesus for allowing His disciples to break the Sabbath Law.
- ◆ (In vs. 2-5), Jesus takes the Pharisees to the Word of God.
- ◆ He tells how David and his men ate the 12 loaves of showbread when hungry. (Bread that only the priest was to eat).
- ◆ He reveals how God is more concerned about David and his men receiving strength, (than allowing them to perish for the sake of a temporary law).

#2. Jesus Takes Us To the Synagogue In verses 6-10

Fact: The Pharisees knew Jesus would be teaching on the Sabbath Day.

Fact: The Pharisees attend to the meeting to watch Jesus.

Fact: Their desire is to gather more evidence to make a case against Jesus.

Question: Did the Pharisees plant the handicapped man there?

Question: Would Jesus heal this man in front of His critics?

Question: Could Jesus heal the man of his paralyzed hand?

Question: Would Jesus heal the man in private after the Sabbath day ended?

Question: What did Jesus do that speaks to our hearts today?

(Three Things That Speak To Us All)

I. Jesus Honored The Man’s “Faithfulness”

Fact: (V. 6) reveals that Jesus entered the synagogue on the Sabbath Day.

Fact: In the service this day, was a man with a withered hand.

Fact: On this specific day, Jesus saw the man within the crowd.

Fact: Jesus always sees the one who is in need.

(What’s This Man Doing In Church?)

- #1. He is simply attending church as normal.
- #2. He is there to hear Jesus teach the Scriptures.
- #3. He is in the congregation with people surrounding him.

#4. He is only being faithful to the task at hand.

(And What Happens?)

#1. This man is rewarded for being faithful to God.

#2. This man is rewarded for drawing near to God.

#3. This man is rewarded for doing what he should be doing.

(And I discover here:)

◆ That Jesus honored the man's faithfulness (and saw this one in the midst of the crowd)

II. Jesus Honored The Man's "Fortitude"

Fact: In the midst of this public meeting, something very intense is going on:

◆ On one hand, the man saw the Pharisees waiting to trap Jesus over the Sabbath Law.

◆ On the other hand, the man saw Jesus who was moved with compassion for hurting people.

(And In The Midst Of It All)

Jesus Says:

"Rise up out of your seat and stand forth in the midst" (v. 8)

(It Is Intense Opposition)

#1. The Pharisees are on one side of the issue,

#2. Jesus is on the other side of the issue over the Sabbath.

(And Jesus Tests The Man's Courage)

"Stand Forth In The Midst Of These"

Question: What does the man do?

Answer: He arises and comes forth before the people.

◆ I call this the fortitude of faith.

◆ It's a willingness to do what Jesus said to do (even when people do not agree).

◆ It's a willingness to "Step out" and say "Yes" to Jesus, (regardless of the consequences).

(The Man Had 2 Choices)

#1. Stay in his seat so the Pharisees won't get upset (or)

#2. Stand up like Jesus said, stand up.

(And I Learn Again That...)

...obedience to Jesus pays great dividends.

...obedience opens the door to **blessing**.

...obedience leads the way to answered prayer.

Understand The Legalistic Pharisees

"They watched Jesus, whether He would heal on the Sabbath day, that they might find an accusation against Him" (v. 7)

“And they were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus”. (v. 11)

Question: Why were the Pharisees so angry about picking wheat and healing bodies on the Sabbath day?

Answer: They were angry because they had a religious system with all the answers.

#1. The disciples were condemned because even picking grain to eat was considered reaping and threshing.

#2. Jesus was condemned because practicing medicine (work) was forbidden as a profession on the Sabbath.

Question: But why such hypocrisy?

Answer: Because, the Pharisees were using their human laws and traditions to justify their hatred of other people.

A Pharisee...

- ◆ ...uses their religion to judge and condemn people.
- ◆ ...uses their traditions to elevate their own spirituality.
- ◆ ...uses their expectations to be negative towards those in great need (and less fortunate).
- ◆ ...uses their laws to make others look bad, (which is born out of pride).

Question: What is legalism?

Answer: “It is a form (duty) of do’s and don’ts that is bound to produce pride of heart”
(Watchman Nee)

Fact: The Pharisees were so jealous of Jesus’ popularity that they missed who He was.

Fact: They missed out on the joy of ministry because they were not willing to give up their positions and power.

Fact: When Jesus exposed their attitudes, He became their enemy and they sought for ways to destroy Him.

III. Jesus Honored The Man’s “Faith”

Fact: Luke says that this man had a withered hand.

Fact: The word withered means “Dried up” (or that some form of paralysis was present).

Fact: The hand was withered from an accident, disease or atrophy (from bricklaying possibly).

(And Jesus Says)

(Stretch Forth Thy Hand” (Verse 10)

(What goes through this man’s mind?)

- ◆ “But Lord, it’s been paralyzed for a long time”,
- ◆ “But Lord, its just another normal service”,
- ◆ “But Lord, I’m not worthy that you should heal me”,
- ◆ “But Lord, what happens if I’m not healed?”

(And Again This Man Has A Choice)

#1. Believe all the voices that say, “You cannot be healed so don’t waste your time”.

(Or)

#2. Believe the voice of Jesus that says, "Stretch forth your hand and see the glory of God once again".

Ask: What do you do when confronted with a choice to believe or doubt this healing Jesus?

Ask: What do you do when it all doesn't make sense to you?

Ask: What do you do when you don't know what to do?

(You Do What This Man Did)

#1. The man believes that Jesus can heal him.

#2. The man believes that Jesus will heal him.

#3. The man believes that Jesus will do His part. (If he stretches out his hand and does his part).

(2 Choices Today:)

#1. Believe this Healing Jesus

(or)

#2. Doubt this Healing Jesus.

Let's Believe...

...that Jesus Christ is still the same yesterday, today and forever!!!

- ◆ Are you willing to "Stand up" in the midst of the congregation and believe Jesus?
- ◆ Are you willing to "Stretch forth" your need and trust Jesus to heal you?
- ◆ Are you willing to lay aside "What people think" and respond in obedience to God?

Life Application

#1. God honors faithfulness; He takes notice of the mundane routine.

#2. The key that unlocks the door of the supernatural is obedience.

#3. Legalism is a system that brings death to your spirit man.

#4. Faith in God still moves mountains and impossibilities.

#5. The Lord still heals because the Lord has not changed.

#6. No one can keep you down (intimidated) when God wants to lift you up.

#7. The way it's always been, is not the way it always has to be!

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor

(Pg. 4 of 4)