

Title: Healing for the Withered

Text: Mark 3: 1-8

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 21: 1-7

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Place: SGBC, New Jersey

While the Lord Jesus Christ walked this earth the enemies of our Lord never hindered Christ from doing the will of his Father for the glory of God and the welfare of those with a true need.

Brethren, believe the Lord Jesus, heed his word, and walk in his steps. Doing so we will find the Lord is faithful to bless us and provide all our need.

**Mark 3: 1: And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.**

## **I. WE SEE OUR LORD JESUS DOING WHAT HE HAS PROMISED HE WILL DO—*HE ENTERED AGAIN INTO THE SYNAGOGUE***

The Lord has promised to meet with his people in the place where he has recorded his name.

Exodus 20: 24:...in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee.

The Lord has promised as surely as God the Holy Spirit dwells in each particular believer, likewise, in whatever place the Lord has placed his name and assembled his saints for public worship, God promises to dwell in our midst: to bless his word for our growth, comfort, and establishment.

Philippian 2: 13: For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

It is not the synagogue that is the house of the Lord it is his people.

1 Corinthians 3:16: Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Matthew 18: 20: For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Having this assurance, let us never forsake assembling with the Lord's people.

Hebrews 10: 23: Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;) 24: And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

## **II. WE SEE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE PRESENT.**

**Mark 3: 1:...and there was a man there which had a withered hand. 2: And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him.**

First is the man with the withered hand who represents the truly needy sinner. Truly needy sinners are disabled from working for our living, our salvation. By nature our "whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it;...(Is 1: 5-6.)

Secondly, in the Pharisees we not only see the hatred of the unregenerate heart toward God, but we see the ignorance and self-righteousness of the natural heart. **(v2) They watched him whether he would heal him on the sabbath day;**

The Sabbath was only a day to these men. They had no understanding that Christ is the Lord of the Sabbath and the Sabbath Rest of his people. (Read Mark 2: 27-28.) The Lord God rested after creating the heavens and the earth, because there remained nothing else to be done. That is what the believer finds in Christ.

- Men cease from their own works
- Men trust Christ to provide every need.
- Christ is our Rest. We keep the Sabbath by faith in Christ.

Matthew 11:28: Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Hebrews 4: 9: There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. 10: For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his

But not having life and the gift of faith, the Pharisee's only understood the law in the letter. So instead of having love, the fulfillment of the law, **(v2) They watched him whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him.**

Did that stop the Lord from doing the will of his Father for his glory and the good of his sheep? No. Let it not stop us. Remember, brethren, you can do nothing to satisfy a Pharisee (Mt 11: 17-19; Ps 69: 10-11.) Pipe—but they want dance. Mourn—but they will not mourn--“When I wept...that was to my reproach.” John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners.

So what do we do? Continue trusting the Lord and let none turn you from Christ Jesus the Lord (Col 3: 1-25.) Our feet our set on Christ the Rock.

### **III. AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT THE LORD DOES THROUGH THE GOSPEL.**

First, the Lord singled out this man with the withered hand. Luke tells us, the Lord taught. All heard his word. But then he singled out this one man and spoke directly to him.

**Mark 3: 3: And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth.**

Now picture this. The Pharisee's had openly asked the Lord the question whether or not it was even lawful to heal on the Sabaath day. The Lord spoke concerning this very thing. And the Pharisee's were watching that they might accuse him. This man was sitting there listening as all this took place.

To be watched by the self-righteous, even if we can maintain our composure, inflicts trouble, it can be very distressing. But just as our Lord was not turned from his mission of mercy by his enemies, likewise, the Lord gives his child boldness to stand with him even in the midst of enemies. The quickening grace of the Spirit gives the sinner boldness to be identified with the Savior.

Secondly, through his word the Lord Jesus silences those who would prevent us from approaching the Lord.

**Mark 3: 4: And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace. 5: And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts,**

The fulfillment of the law is love. When the Lord's disciples were hungry on the Sabbath he permitted them to pick corn out of the field with no regard to the day. When David's men were hungry David went so far as to eat the showbread forbidden to be eaten by any but the priest—Christ is the fulfillment of that type.

Christ is our Sabbath Rest and our Bread from heaven. We come to Christ our Temple, we Rest in him and we feast on the Bread from heaven. Christ is the High Priest who ministers the bread pictured by Ahimelech and Christ is the King pictured in David. The blood of Christ is the Purification of his people—pictured in what the high priest required of David and his men that da

Remember that the Lord alone is able to silence our enemies and he does so by his word. He put them to silence.

Isaiah 44: 24: Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I *am* the LORD that maketh all *things*; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself; 25: That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise *men* backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish;

Thirdly, when Christ speaks in power he makes his child do that which otherwise is absolutely impossible--  
**v5:..he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And He stretched it out.**

By his power he gives the sinner life, ears to hear his word, faith to believe on him and strength to cast all into Christ's hand to heal. "Of God Christ is made unto us Power and Wisdom"

As long as something else is our strength—we ourselves, our lawkeeping, or things temporal—then we will find it impossible to enter into the blessing our Lord has promised. As long as our power lies in what we perceive we have the ability to do then we cannot do anything—all is reduced to complete inability. But when our Power is Christ not us, when Christ is our Wisdom rather than our own understanding, then Christ is the Power and Wisdom to do what we otherwise have no ability in ourselves to do--**v5:..he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And He stretched it out. And his hand was restored whole as the other.**

Christ's cures are not half cures.

- Sin—he fully “put away sin by the sacrifice of himself”
- Justification—by Christ Jesus the believer is "justified from all things."
- Adoption—He fully adopts—"Now are we the sons of God."
- Pardon—He entirely, forever pardons—"having forgiven you all trespasses."
- When the Spirit of God enters in he makes a man altogether whole in the inward man.

Philippians 4: 13: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

#### **IV. LASTLY, TWO REACTIONS TO GRACE**

The first reaction we see in those the Lord left alone.

**Mark 3: 6: And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.**

Before a self-righteous sinner will bow to the Lord and repent from their form of religion they will sooner lock arms with those whom they otherwise have nothing in common than with the Lord and his people. The self-made men are merely looking for grounds on which they imagine they can justify their rebellion against the Prince of Life! Another verse says they were “filled with madness”—that truly is madness.

The second reaction is this.

**Mark 3: 7: But Jesus withdrew himself with his disciples to the sea: and a great multitude from Galilee followed him, and from Judaea, 8: And from Jerusalem, and from Idumaea, and *from* beyond Jordan; and they about Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they had heard what great things he did, came unto him.**

These two things happen when sinners encounter the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ: the self-righteous are infuriated and depart while the needy follow him in hope. Contact with the Lord Jesus makes men either better or worse.

**Remember what we have seen here:**

1. Be where Christ promises to bless his people—if you have desperate need and Christ is All then we will be.
2. Never let your accusers turn you from the Lord Jesus Christ or cause you to cease doing that which he says is good. He is able to protect you from all enemies.
3. Trust the Lord to heal that which is withered.
  - He is able to speak effectually into the heart
  - He is able to draw his child to himself
  - He is the Power and Wisdom by which we believe and are kept in him
  - Don't look to our withered hands, look only to the Lord Jesus. He is our strength to reach forth. And reaching forth we shall find healing.
4. If you have heard what great things he has done, like the multitudes that followed him in hope, come to Christ, believe on him and follow the Lord Jesus in hope.

Amen!