

Matthew 12:9-13 The Man With a Withered Hand

Introduction: Verse 9 speaks of Jesus leaving the grain field. Luke informs us that the incident in our text took place on the following sabbath. It took place in “their synagogue,” that is in the synagogue where the Pharisee critics were leaders. Luke says that He went there to teach.

I. The question by the Pharisees, Verse 10.

- A. There was in the synagogue a man with a withered hand. (Luke said it was the right hand.)
(The presence of this man offered the Pharisees an opportunity to pursue their criticism of Jesus.)
- B. They asked, “Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath?”
 - 1. They did not ask for information.
 - 2. The already thought they knew the answer to the question.
 - 3. They certainly did not consider Him an authority.
 - 4. They sought to entrap Him.
- C. They thought they had Him trapped.
 - 1. If He said, “No” and did not heal the man, they would accuse Him of a lack of compassion for the man.
 - 2. If He said, “Yes” they would point out that this is in contradiction of what the fathers said. (They said that one may heal on the sabbath only in a case of life or death.)
 - 3. If He should heal the man they would charge Him of violating the sabbath and have Him stoned.

II. Jesus' answer to the question, Verse 11-12.

- A. Jesus answered with a question: “If your sheep fell in a pit on the sabbath would you lift him out?”
 - 1. If they said “No” all the people would know they were lying.
 - 2. Also if they said, “No” they would be contradicting the fathers who said that you should rescue animals on the sabbath.
 - 3. If they said “Yes” Jesus would point out that if it is lawful to aid animals, it is lawful to aid men.
- B. Therefore they remained silent and did not answer.
- C. Jesus took advantage of their silence and declared that it is lawful to do good on the sabbath.
(Left the application to them.)
- D. Then He proceeded to instruct the man with the withered hand.

III. The faith of the man with the withered hand, Verse 13.

- A. The man probably knew that the Pharisees were critical of Jesus.
(These were influential men.)
- B. When Jesus instructed him to stretch forth his hand, he had choices.
 - 1. He could point out the impossibility of such a thing and join with the critics.
 - 2. He could believe that Jesus is able to heal and put forth an effort to stretch forth his hand.
- C. Without a word he demonstrated his choice.
- D. Immediately he was healed.

Conclusion:

Today I preach to someone with a sinful soul. Jesus is able to save. Will you join with the critics who doubt or will you join the believers by trusting Jesus? Stretch forth your soul to Jesus.

I am convinced that it was no problem in getting that healed man to serve Jesus. It should be no problem in getting men who are saved to serve the Lord.

Preached at Pleasant Hill M.B.C. 11-6-83 A.M.