

TRUST AND OBEY
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People have favorite scriptures. These scriptures bring them joy, comfort, assurance, and remind them of Jesus' love, and some just make the heart happy. For me, one passage found in Matthew 12, Mark 3 and Luke 6 brings me joy. Luke 6 is the one we will look at. In this passage we find it's the Sabbath and Jesus is in the synagogue teaching. Also in the synagogue were the scribes and the Pharisees, and a man whose right hand was withered.

At times I think about why. Why did it happen that way, or why were people there or not there? Why was Jesus in that synagogue that morning? Why was the man there who had the withered hand, and why were the scribes and the Pharisees there? Scripture gives us some of the answers to these questions. ["On another Sabbath He entered the synagogue and was teaching; and there was a man there whose right hand was withered."](#) (Luke 6:6)

Jesus was there teaching. There is not a reason given for the man with the withered hand being there. Perhaps since it was the Sabbath he usually went to the synagogue. Just maybe he was there at the request of the scribes and the Pharisees as a set-up in an effort to get Jesus to work on the Sabbath. The set-up is just a guess, nothing more.

The scribes and Pharisees have had previous encounters with Jesus, and they could not outwit Him. They are filled with rage at Jesus and want to kill Him. The right hand is noteworthy. The right hand was associated with power and strength. When Jesus healed the man's hand it demonstrated His power over all as well as His compassion. The scribes, Pharisees and everyone else knew this from Old Testament teachings.

The scribes and Pharisees were religious leaders who often opposed Jesus. Their mission in life was to find fault with Him. This gives us a clear understanding of their resistance to His teachings and authority. Their desire to accuse Him is rooted in their fear of losing power and influence over the people.

The scribes were experts in the Law of Moses, responsible for teaching and interpreting it. The Pharisees were a religious sect known for their strict adherence to the Law and oral traditions. Both groups held significant influence in Jewish society. Their collaboration in this context underscores their shared interest in maintaining religious control and their mutual opposition to Jesus, who challenged their interpretations and authority.

In my mind's eye I can see the scribes and Pharisees standing over in the corner with smug looks, whispering to one another of how they had Him. They just knew that Jesus would heal the man and that would be considered work, and no work was to be done on the Sabbath. They would finally have a charge to use to discredit Jesus.

Healing on the Sabbath was considered work, thus violating these man-made rules. Jesus' actions on the Sabbath often challenged these interpretations, emphasizing the spirit of the Law over the letter. His willingness to heal on the Sabbath demonstrates His authority over the Law and His compassion for human need. ["The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."](#) (Mark 2:27)

As usual Jesus knew their thoughts. ⁸ But He knew what they were thinking, and He said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!" And he got up and came forward. ⁹ And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to destroy?" (Luk6:8-9)

The Pharisees had developed an extensive set of rules about what constituted work on the Sabbath, often missing the spirit of the law. Jesus is challenging their legalistic interpretation by focusing on the intent behind the Sabbath. The question of what is "lawful" points to the heart of the Law, which is love and mercy. "For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings." (Hosea 6:6)

Jesus directly addressed the man with the withered hand, demonstrating His personal care and willingness to heal. This command requires an act of faith from the man. Despite his condition, the man is asked to do something that seems impossible. The man's obedience to Jesus' command is immediate and without hesitation.

To me, now comes the best part. Remember, they thought they had Jesus. Then all of their anticipation was destroyed. "After looking around at them all, He said to him, "Stretch out your hand!" And he did so; and his hand was restored." (Luke 6:10) Instead of the scribes and Pharisees being thrilled at the healing, they had this attitude: "But they themselves were filled with rage, and discussed together what they might do to Jesus." (Luke 6:11) From this time forward their intent was to harm or discredit Jesus. Their discussions now were not merely about silencing Jesus, but eliminating Him as a threat.

In the scheme of things, it is important to note the actions of Jesus and the man with the withered hand. Jesus was upset that the law was more important than an act of mercy and healing even if was the Sabbath. Jesus showed His mercy and compassion for the man who had this condition from birth. The man did as Jesus asked him and in faith and belief in Jesus' power, he stretched out his hand and it was restored to a healthy hand for the first time in his life. When we have troubles in life, the same Jesus that healed that man can do the same for you. You only have to trust and obey. He never, ever fails us. Have a blessed week.

Trust In God: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJE4yahEIBQ&list=RDjJE4yahEIBQ&start_radio=1