



Daily Verse and Comment

[Matthew 12:9-14](#)

(9) Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, (10) and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" (11) He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? (12) How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." (13) Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. (14) But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

New International Version

[Matthew 12:9-14](#) is in many respects very similar to John 9. [Jesus](#) healed a man with a chronic problem. It was not an emergency situation. He could have allowed the person to go on and heal him after the [Sabbath](#) was over, but He deliberately chose to heal him on the Sabbath day. Why?

The answer is to show us that God's mind, His nature, His law, is always to be [merciful](#) under *every* circumstance. In following His example, we have to make sure that what we are doing, our intent, really *is* showing mercy to the person. Necessity in this case did not demand that He heal the man on the Sabbath, but it provided an excellent example that mercy is always right when the opportunity presents itself.

Even though Jesus had the power from [God](#) to do this, He did not frequently go out of His way to heal people on the Sabbath. On the other hand, if people came to Him on the Sabbath, He healed them.

The Pharisees were so far from God that they were blinded to the wickedness of their plans. They were looking for an opportunity to get evidence against Jesus to kill Him. Their wicked motivation for their actions is probably the

most gross Sabbath violation in all the Bible: They used the Sabbath to plot the murder of an innocent Man.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Sabbathkeeping \(Part 4\)](#)



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