



Daily Verse and Comment

Matthew 12:13

(13) And He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored *as* sound as the other.

Mark 3:3-5

(3) Then He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Stand up *here* in the center." (4) And He said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbaths, or to do evil? To save life, or to kill?" But they were silent. (5) And after looking around at them with anger, being grieved at the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as sound as the other.

Luke 6:8-10

(8) But He knew their thoughts, and said to the man who had the withered hand, "Arise and stand in the midst." And he arose and stood in their midst. (9) Then Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful to do good or to do evil on the Sabbaths? to save life or to destroy it?" (10) And after looking around on them all, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored as sound as the other.

A Faithful Version

Jesus asks the man to do what had seemed impossible a moment before. At His command, the man places himself in full view of the synagogue's audience so that everyone present can witness it, and without even touching him, Jesus immediately heals him. When the man stretches out his hand for all to see, the crowd witnesses positive proof of Christ's power and [holiness](#).

Despite the shame of his withered hand, the man still attends [Sabbath](#) services at the synagogue. He places a higher priority on worshipping [God](#) than on his personal discomfort. The principle illustrated here is that people should not use physical problems as an excuse for not going to church. A person should attend services when able.

The downside of missing services is that, eventually, spiritual problems with far more serious consequences will develop. No one can do much in service to God if he allows physical problems or handicaps to impede his worship and service of his Creator. In a sense, many of us suffer from withered hands. [Sin](#) so paralyzes us that we cannot serve God as we would like. Yet, anyone in God's church can be empowered to do the needed things for our Healer.

The real issue is [faith](#) . Jesus fulfills God's intention for the Sabbath day by restoring this man to health and strength. In answering Christ's call to step forward, the man shows what a little faith and obedience can do. This tests his courage and faith as he rises above his human fears. He entirely trusts Christ, and his healing is God's response.

— Martin G. Collins

To learn more, see:

[The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Healing a Withered Hand \(Part Two\)](#)

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