

A Withered Hand Restored

RED Letters

Luke 6:6-10



The Passage

On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered. ⁷ And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him. ⁸ But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come and stand here." And he rose and stood there. ⁹ And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?" ¹⁰ And after looking around at them all he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored.

v6: The Stricken Man

The hand was afflicted in such a way as to be shrunken, shriveled or dried up, with the muscles and nerves inactive

As a result the hand had lost its function and was as good as dead(BBE translation) and very likely would have been smaller than the other

From the text we can deduce that it wasn't a congenital disease, i.e. he hadn't been born that way

v7: The Scribes and Pharisees

Why were they there? – not to learn, but to spy!

Legalism hardens the heart

Legalism inverts priorities – Matt 23:23

v8: The Response

Jesus perceived the thoughts of their hearts

This public show was a departure from the norm

It was opposition that set the man up for a day of destiny

v9: A Question

Jesus frames the question in a positive way, i.e. “is it lawful...?”
not “is it unlawful?”

The law is a covenant of restrictions and limitations

We need to learn to recalibrate the questions we ask: not “is it permissible?” but “is it beneficial?” (1 Cor 10:23)

v10: An Instruction

Jesus commanded the man to do the very thing that it was impossible for him to do so that he could be healed

The Word of Christ is powerful; the enablement is in the command!

Without a faith response it won't work, e.g. Moses

v10: The Outcome

The man was healed:

- instantly
- completely

We need to trust the Lord for this; He is the same yesterday, today and forever