

JESUS AND THE SABBATH
LUKE 6:6-11

Introduction:

In our text this morning and in the verses leading up to it, we see that Jesus encountered some additional problems with the scribes and the Pharisees than the ones we've previously taken a look at in recent weeks.

Remember in *Luke 5:17-26* they had a problem with Jesus forgiving a man's sin and then healing him of his palsy. Actually their problem was with Jesus claiming and proclaiming His Deity!
(WORDS!)

Then last week we saw in *Luke 5:27-32* how the scribes and Pharisees had a problem with Jesus eating and socializing with publicans and sinners. **(ACTIONS & ASSOCIATES!)**

Next we see they had some problems with Jesus' disciples.
(RELIGION!)

Luke 5:33 – They had a problem with the Jesus' disciples not fasting.

Luke 6:1-2 – They had a problem with Jesus' disciples plucking ears of corn and eating them on the Sabbath day.

Next we see that Jesus went to the synagogue again on another Sabbath day, and He encountered these additional problems with the Scribes and the Pharisees that we're going to look at today.

I. WE SEE A MAN WITH A WOEFUL PROBLEM.
(Luke 6:6)

The word "*withered*" means the man's right hand had become useless to him. We are not told what caused it to become "*withered*" or how long it had been "*withered*." We are only told that it was.

If this man was right handed, as the vast majority of people are, this would have been even more of a problem for this man!

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The Bible lets us know that the scribes and the Pharisees who were in attendance were watching to see if Jesus would heal this man. **(Vs 7) (RELIGION!)**

I want you to understand a few things here before we move on:

1. This man with the withered hand **had not given up** on God because of his condition. He was in the synagogue on the Sabbath day as he should have been.
2. Had this man not been where he should have been on the Sabbath day, he would not have received help from Jesus that day.
3. The only sense that could be made out of his condition, was for the glory of God to be manifested through Jesus.

WE SEE THE MAN WITH A WOEFUL PROBLEM...

II. WE SEE THE MEN WITH A WICKED PROGRAM!
(Luke 6:7b)

The Scribes and the Pharisees were **watching for any little thing that might be out of order in what Jesus would do** in the synagogue on the Sabbath.

Whenever preachers preach or teachers teach to a group of people, there are at least **four different kinds of people** who can be found in a congregation:

- A. There Are Some Who Are RECEPTIVE!**
(Every preacher I know likes to preach to a crowd where the great majority of folks in attendance are receptive!)
The congregation of believers in Berea mentioned by Luke in Acts 17:11 was such a Church! It says of them, "*These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*"

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The folks in the Berean congregation **loved to hear the preaching and the teaching of God's Word.** But one thing for sure about that congregation, the preacher had better preach the Word of God, because they searched the Scriptures to make sure what he preached was from the Word of God.

It is always a blessing to be in a meeting where the vast majority of the people are receptive to the Word of God!

True ministers of the Gospel are indeed thankful to the Lord for the RECEPTIVE members they preach to each week!

B. There Are Some Who Are APATHETIC!

These are the ones who have come to Church, but they do not have strong feelings toward the MESSENGER, or the MESSAGE. They can take it or leave it (and usually leave it.)

The most that can be said of them is that **they are present.**

These are the people that believe that when Jesus said "*Occupy 'til I come*", he meant take up space on a pew.

Some don't even bother to bring or open their Bibles, because **they don't expect to learn anything from the Word of God.**

Some don't open their hymnals and sing or sing half-hearted, because **they did not come to truly worship the Lord.**

Some of them do not participate in giving, because **they could care less if the expenses of the Church are met and they could care less if the whole world dies and goes to a Christ-less eternity.**

Most of them do not bother serving in any capacity because **they have come to be served instead of serving!**

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RECEPTIVE, APATHETIC...

C. There Are Some Who Are DOUBTFUL!

It is difficult to preach to this crowd, because they don't have any real faith in God or His Word!

You can preach about all the promises of God, but they doubt that God can do anything for them or anyone else.

They say, "*I know the Bible says thus and so. . .BUT. . .*"
OR "*I know God did that for them, but that was then and this is now...*"

RECEPTIVE, APATHETIC, DOUBTFUL...

D. There Are Some Who Are HOSTILE!

The minister of the Gospel will not see many smiles from this group, and there won't be any "Amens" from their direction!

When the Lord was on earth, He often preached to those who were hostile to Him. (The Scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees)

They followed him from city to city, listening to every word that came out of His mouth, not because they wanted to learn something, but because **they wanted to find something they could use against Him!**

The deacon and evangelist Stephen preached to such a hostile crowd, and they stoned him. (Acts 7)

Those who are hostile are some of the most difficult to preach to because they are looking for something to be said to give them the opportunity to cause an uproar!

People who are hostile towards God's man are not usually rejecting THE MESSENGER as much as they are rejecting the MESSAGE!

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Usually, you will find a blend of RECEPTIVE, APATHETIC, DOUBTFUL and HOSTILE people who make up a congregation. In the almost nine years we've been here, I've seen some of them all come through here!

When the Lord came to the Synagogue on the Sabbath, He encountered some very HOSTILE people. They were constantly watching Him wherever He went, to see if they could find fault with what He SAID or with what He DID!

They knew He went about doing good, and healing, as He went. So on this Sabbath day they were interested in what He would do with the man with the withered hand.

WE SEE A MAN WITH A WOEFUL PROBLEM.

WE SEE THE MEN WITH THE WICKED PROGRAM.

III. WE SEE THE GOD- MAN WITH THE WONDERFUL POWER! (Luke 6:8-10)

The scribes and Pharisees **came looking for something to complain about**, and Jesus knew it. **Jesus still did that which was right**, even knowing they would complain about it!

There are some folks who **complain about anything and everything!** And if they can't find anything to complain about sometimes they will make something up to complain about or they will complain because they don't have anything to complain about!

That is the same way the Scribes and Pharisees were; they could find **nothing good** in the Lord Jesus because **they were not looking for good!**

They were eyeballing everything Jesus did so that they could find something to complain about!

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People who are like that **make life miserable for themselves and for others who are around them!**

In our passage we see Jesus! He was and is the God-Man with the wonderful power! He is the God-man Who manifested the very power of God because He is God!

A. We See His Awareness!

Verse 8 says, "But he knew their thoughts..."

It is most likely a good thing that we do not know what is in the minds of some folks. Am I right? It probably wouldn't make for a good worship atmosphere!

Listen, people think all kinds of things when they come to Church, and we all can be thankful that God did not give us the ability to know what people are thinking.

One thing I can assure you of is that God knows every thought any of has ever had!—Both inside and outside of Church!

The Scribes and Pharisees were watching Jesus like a hawk, and they were THINKING about how they could trap Him. The Bible says, *"...he knew their thoughts..."* They were guilty of stinking thinking!

We See His Awareness...

B. We See His Actions!

Jesus was aware of their thoughts, but it did not keep Him from doing what needed to be done!

1. He Acted Publicly. (Vs 8)

Luke 6:8 "...and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth."

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They did their evil in secrecy, but He acted openly.

He knew it was the Sabbath, that is why He was in the synagogue.

He saw the man with the withered hand.

He asked the man to stand where everyone could see him, and the man complied.

He Acted Publicly...

2. **He Acted Purposely.**
The Lord always had a purpose in doing what He did!

Jesus knew what they were thinking, so He could have said to Himself, *"These Scribes and Pharisees are trying to cause a problem, so I will pretend I do not see this man with the withered hand,"* and He could have ignored him. But instead of doing that, He did what they were hoping He would do - **HE HEALED THIS MAN ON THE SABBATH!**

WHAT WAS HIS PURPOSE FOR DOING THIS?
It was to show them that PEOPLE were more important than the RULES that the religious leaders had instructed the people to observe!

We need to remember that the Sabbath was set aside as a day of rest and worship for God's people. They had six days to work, but on the Sabbath they were to cease from all these activities, and use the Sabbath to worship the God who had so richly blessed them, and to rest from their labor.

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The problem was that along with the commands of God for this day, the Scribes and Pharisees had added their list of *"do's and don'ts"*. **When they got through adding their list to what God had commanded, the day became more important than the people.**

Just prior to this, Mark records that Jesus said in *Mark 2:27*, ". . .*The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath:"*

It had come to the place where **observing the Sabbath was more important than helping people.** It is very easy to put religious things in the wrong place.

Look at how the Lord responded to them.
Look at Vs 9.

The Lord asked these questions, and you notice that there was nobody answering. The answer should have been obvious. Mark's account gives us a look into the heart of Jesus as He observed these heartless people.

Mark 3:5a "And when he had looked round about on them WITH ANGER, being grieved for THE HARDNESS OF THEIR HEARTS,..."

We see the outward things, but Jesus sees the root of the problem, the hard heart of man.

Look at the **POWER** of the Lord Jesus! **(Vs 10)**

The Pharisees viewed healing on the Sabbath as a violation of the law. Jesus viewed it as **a show of mercy, appropriate on any day of the week.**

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JESUS HEALED THIS MAN! I am glad we don't have to depend on the hardhearted people in this world, we can depend on Christ. Aren't you thankful for the mercy and healing of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Conclusion:

This story of Jesus healing this man with a withered hand communicates to us many valuable lessons.

- 1. What Can We Learn From The Man With The Withered Hand?**
 - a. We all have problems that need the touch of Jesus!
 - b. We need to draw near to God in spite of our problems! (James 4:8a)
 - c. We need to be where we can be blessed by Jesus!
 - d. When Jesus speaks, we need to listen and be obedient to Him! (i.e. We need to be receptive to the preaching of God's Word.)
 - e. Sometimes the only sense we can make out of problems in our lives is that they are for God to get the Glory out of them—are we allowing Him to get the glory!

- 2. What Can We Learn From The Scribes And The Pharisees?**
 - a. Just because we are religious doesn't make us right.
 - b. We need to be careful about how our attitudes affect ourselves and others.
 - c. We need to be more concerned about the Truth than about our own position and preconceived ideas.

- 3. What Can We Learn From Jesus?**
 - a. We Can Learn About His Care For Us!**
 - 1) Jesus Knows Our Needs.
 - 2) Jesus Can Meet Our Needs.

 - b. We Can Learn About His Care For Others!**
 - 1) Jesus had compassion on those with needs and so should we.

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- 2) Jesus did good on the day of rest and worship and so should we.

- 3) Jesus did what was right even when it wasn't convenient (i.e. He did it in the midst of opposition and criticism) and so should we.

- 4) Jesus committed Himself into the hands of His Father and so should we.
1 Peter 1:23—“Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously”