

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Healing Miracles of Christ

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The Healing of the Withered Hand

And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.

And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him.

And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth.

And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life?, or to kill? But they held their peace.

And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.—*Mark 3:1-5.*

And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue, and taught, and there was a man whose right hand was withered.

And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day, that they might find an accusation against him.

But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose, and stood forth.

Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing, Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it?

And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other.—*Luke 6:6-10.*

In addition to teaching profound occult truths through His healing works, the Master also gave some practical truths consistent with everyday living, as in the case of the man with the withered hand. His words and acts were not only for the people of His own time but are equally applicable to the needs of the moderns.

The Scribes and Pharisees are always with us and sometimes they are even within us. Intolerance and condemnation of the actions of others is pharisaical. Living in such strict accordance

with the letter of the law that we relegate mercy, compassion, and love to the background is characteristic of those literalists whom the Master reprimanded so often and so sternly.

Because it was the Sabbath, the Pharisees objected to healing works being performed. The compassionate Lord was sad because of the hardness of their hearts and inquired of them, "Is it lawful to do good or evil on the Sabbath, to save a life or to destroy it?" They were silent before His question. Ofttimes the Christ power within us is hampered by rigid adherence to regulations which exclude the personal equation of pity and love and service outside the prescribed path.

In all spiritual healing, faith is the prime essential. Often the Christ used the word in His work; if not, then He caused the patient to demonstrate it. The man with the withered hand was commanded to "stretch it forth." With no thought of refusal, the effort was made — and the hand was moved and was whole again.

The annals of Mystic Masonry contain this same legend as related by Luke, who adds that it was the right hand which was withered or useless. The two hands symbolize the two paths of service in the occult world. Man in his present materialistic phase has virtually slain the Love power, allowing it to wither from disuse. When the Supreme Lord of Love appeared, He awakened the heart, and as the fires of the heart burned their path outward into the hands, the withered member was healed and made available once more for constructive work in the world.

It is significant in this connection that the withered hand was healed within the precincts of the Temple.