The Healing Of The Man With The Withered Hand


Matthew, Mark, and Luke each record this particular miracle of Christ regarding a man with a withered hand. This particular miracle, like all the miracles of Christ is a manifestation of Christ's authority, grace, mercy and power. This miraculous healing like the others that Christ performed is a beautiful picture of the saving operations of His grace in and upon chosen sinners.

I. THE BACKGROUND OF THIS MIRACLE

1 The Place Of The Miracle:
The place of this miracle was the synagogue. Matthew writes “He (Jesus), went into their synagogue” (12:9), and Mark writes “And He entered again (indicating that this was His habit), into the synagogue” (3:1), and Luke writes “And it came to pass also on another sabbath that He entered into the synagogue” (6:6). Luke also records, that while in synagogue that He “taught” (6:6). Jesus often taught in the Jewish synagogues (Matthew 13:54; Mark 1:21; 6:2; Luke 4:16; John 6:59; 18:20). Luke records that this was his practice or routine; “and as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read” (Luke 4:16).

2 The Time Of This Miracle:
Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record that this particular miracle took place on the Sabbath. Again, there are seven recorded healing miracles of Christ that took place on the Sabbath. Jesus intentionally healed on the Sabbath for the purpose of manifesting His authority over the Sabbath, for the purpose of correcting and rebuking the Jewish leaders of their abuse of the Sabbath, for the purpose of unmasking the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders concerning the Sabbath, and for the purpose of teaching the people concerning the Sabbath. Leading up to this particular miracle, Jesus entered into a conversation with the scribes and Pharisees about appropriate Sabbath day works (Matthew 12:11-12; Mark 3:4; Luke 6:9).

3 Those Who Witnessed This Miracle:
The scribes and Pharisees were there in that particular synagogue on that particular Sabbath, and their purpose for being there is stated by Matthew, Mark, and Luke (Matthew 12:10; Mark 3:2; Luke 6:7). Luke records in his account that Jesus knew the thoughts and intents of these so-called “religious leaders” (Luke 6:8). BEFORE THEY SPOKE A WORD, THE LORD KNEW THEIR HEARTS (Proverbs 15:11).
II. THE MIRACLE OF HEALING

1. The Lord Had A Purpose:
It is recorded three times that Jesus went into the synagogue (Matthew 12:9; Mark 3:1; Luke 6:6). Without a doubt, He did so with a purpose! It was His purpose to go into that particular synagogue on that particular Sabbath to teach, and it was His purpose to enter that particular synagogue on that particular Sabbath to confront the scribes and Pharisees that would be there. But His main objective, His main aim, and motivation for going to that particular synagogue on that particular Sabbath was to do a miraculous work upon a particular individual!

2. The Recipient Of The Miracle:
In each account there is the mention of a particular man (Matthew 12:10; Mark 3:1; Luke 6:6). There is no mention of who this man is, and there is no mention of his background or life. The only thing recorded of him is that his hand was “withered” (shriveled). Luke, being a physician did record that it was his “right hand” that “was withered” (Luke 6:6). No mention is made as to how this came about, or how long this had been the case. BUT WE ARE SPECIFICALLY TOLD THAT THIS MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND WAS THERE! In fact, Matthew writes “behold (a note of exclamation to draw attention), there was a man which had his hand withered” (Matthew 12:10). Why this man came to the synagogue that day, or what his mindset was is unknown. It is possible that he was planted there by the scribes and Pharisees, so that they could entrap Christ! One thing for certain CHRIST WAS THERE FOR HIM THAT DAY!

3. There Was A Choice Made:
In the synagogue that day besides the scribes, the Pharisees, and the man with the “withered hand” were no doubt, many others who had great needs. But with the accusatory eyes of the scribes and Pharisees upon Christ, we read “he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth” (Mark 3:3), and in Luke’s account “and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst” (Luke 6:8). Of all the people in the synagogue that day; He “said unto the man which had the withered hand” THE LORD HAD SELECTED AND HAD COME FOR THIS MAN! It was while this man with “the withered hand” was standing in the midst that Jesus put forth a question to the scribes and Pharisees (Mark 3:4; Luke 6:9).

4. There Was A Call That Went Forth:
Jesus called upon this man with “the withered hand” to rise and to stand! JESUS CALLED THIS MAN BECAUSE HE WAS ABOUT TO PERFORM A MIRACLE UPON HIM! Luke records that in response “he arose and stood forth” (Luke 6:8). With this man now standing in the midst, Jesus looked upon those scribes and Pharisees with
anger and grief “for the hardness of their hearts” *(Mark 3:5)*, and then HE CALLED UPON THE MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND TO DO SOMETHING THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO DO “stretch forth thine hand” *(Matthew 12:13; Mark 3:5; Luke 6:10)*. This man’s hand was shriveled and paralyzed and in and of himself he could not stretch it forth! He was called upon to do something that he could not do! A MIRACLE WAS NEEDED! The command to the unsaved sinner is come, repent, and believe, and he can do none of these things in and of himself! A MIRACLE IS NEEDED! This call and command “Stretch forth thine hand” addressed the very essence of the problem! It is not “rub your withered hand with your other hand” It is not “wash your withered hand” These things he could do in and of himself! But it is “Stretch forth thine hand” THIS WAS THE VERY THING THAT HE COULD NOT DO!

5 *The Man’s Response To The Call:*

Matthew says “And he stretched it forth” *(12:13)*, and Mark says “And he stretched it out” *(3:5)*, and Luke says “And he did so” *(6:10)*. He stretched it forth, believing that Christ was able! THIS IS ALL DUE TO THE EFFECTUAL MIRACULOUS POWER OF GOD! If you were to ask this man “Did you stretch forth your withered hand?” He could answer “Yes, I did” but if you were to ask him “Did you of your own ability stretch forth your withered hand?” He would answer very emphatically “NO! It was due to a miraculous work of God!”

6 *The Result Of Obedience To The Call:*

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record that “his hand was restored whole” *(Matthew 12:13; Mark 3:5; Luke 6:10)*. Due to the miraculous power of Christ that “withered hand” was “restored” His hand was fixed, reconstructed, and reinstated! It was “restored whole” completely, and entirely! The healing was immediate, it was manifest, and it was permanent! THIS MAN’S LIFE AND HIS WAY OF LIVING WAS CHANGED FROM THAT DAY FORWARD!

This marvelous healing miracle intensified the hatred and malice of the scribes and Pharisees and only served to escalate their rage toward Him *(Matthew 12:14; Mark 3:6; Luke 6:11)*. But the man with “the withered hand” went home from that meeting with Jesus, with his “withered hand........restored whole” HE WENT HOME A DIFFERENT MAN, ALL BECAUSE OF JESUS!