

## Matthew 12:1-21

Then He said to the man, “**Stretch out your hand.**” And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other.

### Matthew 12:13

PRAYER: Father, please teach me to do what the man with the withered hand did when Jesus said, “Stretch out your hand.”

*Journal your prayer here:*

PREVIEW: In Matthew 12:1-21, Jesus confronts the Pharisees about doing what is lawful on the Sabbath, heals a man with a withered hand, and the Pharisees reject Him and plot His death.

### Matthew 12:1-21 Outline:

Controversy over Sabbath-Labor - Read Matthew 12:1-8

Controversy over Sabbath-Healing - Read Matthew 12:9-13

Pharisees Plan to Destroy Christ - Read Matthew 12:14-21

## Controversy Over Sabbath-Labor - Read Matthew 12:1-8

Matthew 12:1-8 (NKJV)

1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.

2 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, “Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!”

3 But He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him:

4 how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?

5 Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?

6 Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple.

7 But if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless.

8 For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

1. Jesus and His disciples traveled through grain fields on a Sabbath day, and began to pluck and eat heads of grain (v. 1). The Pharisees said what they were doing was not lawful to do on the Sabbath (v. 2). Were their actions lawful? (See Deuteronomy 23:25.)

2. Jesus referred the Pharisees to 1 Samuel 21:1-6, when David and his men ate the showbread. Who alone was allowed to eat the showbread (v. 4)?

3. Again, Jesus referred to the Scriptures when responding to the Pharisees' accusation that He and His disciples were violating the Sabbath. He compared them to the priests who "profane the Sabbath, and are blameless." How did the priests profane the Sabbath? (See Numbers 28:9-10.)

4. PROPOUND: Twice Jesus said to the Pharisees, "Have you not read..." Why is it important to know what the Bible says and how it applies to your life's circumstances?

5. PROPOUND: Jesus said, "One greater than the temple" was in that place (v. 6). Who is the "One" He refers to, and why should they have recognized this One? (See also Matthew 12:41-42.)

6. PROPOUND: Jesus identified with a prophet (v. 7), the priests (v. 5), and a king (v.3) to make the point to the Pharisees: If they had known the Scriptures, they would not have done what they did. What did they do (v. 7)?

7. When capitalized, the term “Son of Man” (v. 8) refers to God’s Messiah, destined to preside over the final judgment of mankind. Jesus often used this term regarding Himself. What does Jesus say the Son of Man is Lord over? Read Hebrews 4 to discover how true rest is found in Him—how Jesus is the Sabbath that we all seek.

## Controversy over Sabbath-Healing - Read Matthew 12:9-13

Matthew 12:9-13 (NKJV)

9 Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue.

10 And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—that they might accuse Him.

11 Then He said to them, “What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out?

12 Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”

13 Then He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other.

8. Jesus left the grain fields and went into the synagogue, where He encountered a man with a withered hand. The Pharisees asked Jesus a question. What is the question and why did they ask Him?

9. PROPOUND: Read Luke 13:10-17. What is the Pharisees' attitude toward healing on the Sabbath?

10. Jesus answers their question with a question. When He does this, He is often trying to get the person to see a truth about themselves or their situation. What truth does He want the Pharisees to see (v. 12)?

11. PROPOUND: Jesus answers their question with a second question, "Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep?" What is the answer to this question? (See Matthew 10:29, Luke 12:7, and John 3:16.)



12. Jesus now directly answers their question. What was His answer (v. 12)?

13. PRODUCE: The Sabbath was to be a day of rest, and the Jews were not to do any work (see Exodus 20:8-11). Carefully examine *how* Jesus healed the man with the withered hand (see Matthew 12:9-13). Share with the group how Jesus still heals in this manner today.

14. PRACTICE: You might have a part of your life that is “withered,” as the man’s hand was in Matthew 12:9-13. What specifically did the man with the withered hand do to have his hand restored (see Matthew 12:13)?

15. PROTECT: The man with the withered hand obeyed the words of Christ, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. Think about how you can apply this principle of obedience to the “withered” areas in your life?

## Pharisees Plan to Destroy Christ - Read Matthew 12:14-21

Matthew 12:14-21 (NKJV)

14 Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.

15 But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all.

16 Yet He warned them not to make Him known,

17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

18 “Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles.

19 He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.

20 A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory;

21 And in His name Gentiles will trust.”

16. What was the Pharisees’ response to Jesus healing the man’s withered hand (v. 14)?

17. PROPOUND: The healing of the man's withered hand should have prompted a response like the one in Matthew 9:33: "And the multitudes marveled, saying, 'It was never seen like this in Israel!'" However, Matthew 12 shows the rejection of Jesus, despite the authenticating miracles He performed. Who did Jesus say He came for, and what was their response? (See Matthew 15:24 and John 1:11.)

18. How did Jesus respond to their rejection (v. 15)?

19. PROCEED: How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees' rejection of Him (see Matthew 12:15)? Share with the group how Jesus might have this same response to us when He is trying to show us something and we reject it. (See Romans 10:3, Hebrews 3:8; 3:15; 4:8; 12:9, and James 4:7-10.)

20. PROPOUND: Although the Pharisees rejected Jesus, great multitudes continued to follow Him. How many of them did Jesus heal (v. 15)?

21. Matthew used Isaiah 42:1-4, the longest Old Testament quote in his gospel, to summarize the quiet ministry of the Lord's servant (vv. 18-21). Who does this prophecy say will trust in His Name, and to whom will He declare justice?

22. PROCLAIM: In the Isaiah prophesy quoted in Matthew 12:18-21, the Trinity is clearly seen in verse 18. By what name does the Father refer to the Son? (See also Matthew 3:17; 17:5.) How has He declared justice (v. 18) to you, and have you put your trust in His name (v. 21)?

23. PROMOTE: Often, Jesus would warn His hearers "not to make Him known" (see Matthew 12:16). Why would He do that? Why should we do just the opposite? (See Matthew 28:18-20 and Ephesians 6:19-20.)

PROCESS: Take time to review what you've learned about what is lawful to do on the Sabbath and what you need to do with the withered areas of your life. Highlight what the Lord shows you so you can share it with the group.

PRAY: Father, thank You for sending your beloved Son. Please help me to obey His words when He tells me to stretch forth my hand.

Journal your prayer here: