

Jesus Heals a Man with Paralyzed Hand

Here is the **Full Breakdown** of the account where **Jesus heals a man with a paralyzed (withered) hand** on the Sabbath, recorded in:

- 📖 **Matthew 12:9–14**
- 💚 **Mark 3:1–6**
- ❤️ **Luke 6:6–11**

📖 PARALLEL GOSPEL CHART

Detail	📖 Matthew 12:9–14	💚 Mark 3:1–6	❤️ Luke 6:6–11
Location	Synagogue	Synagogue	Synagogue
Time	Same general Sabbath setting as grain-picking scene	On another Sabbath	On another Sabbath
Man's Condition	Hand "withered"	Hand "withered"	Right hand "withered"
Jesus Initiates?	Pharisees ask to trap Him	Jesus initiates confrontation	Jesus initiates confrontation
Question Asked	"Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"	"Is it lawful... to do good or harm?"	"Is it lawful... to do good or harm?"
Jesus' Action	Heals the man	Tells man to stand up; looks around in anger	Tells man to stand up; looks around at all of them
Emotion of Opponents	Plot to destroy Jesus	Pharisees + Herodians plot	Filled with rage
Jesus' Emotions	(Not stated)	Anger & grief at hard hearts	(Not stated)

🕒 HISTORICAL & CULTURAL CONTEXT



Sabbath Law

- The Sabbath was strictly observed in first-century Judaism, and healing was only permitted if someone's life was in danger.
- Healing a withered hand (non-life-threatening) would violate **oral tradition**, not **Torah** itself.



Pharisees and Legalism

- This is a direct confrontation between **Jesus' mercy** and **Pharisaic legalism**.
- The oral traditions (later written as the Mishnah) detailed what was or wasn't allowed on the Sabbath. Acts of healing were often prohibited unless urgent.



Herodians Alliance

- In Mark, the **Pharisees and Herodians** plot together — an unlikely alliance. Pharisees were religious purists, Herodians were politically loyal to Rome.
- Their common enemy: **Jesus**, who undermined both their influence.

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✨ STRUCTURE & FLOW OF THE STORY

1. **Setting:** A synagogue, on the Sabbath.
2. **Presence of the man:** He had a withered/paralyzed hand — Luke specifies it was the **right hand**, indicating a serious social/economic disability.
3. **Conflict Setup:** The religious leaders watch to see if Jesus will heal on the Sabbath.
4. **Challenge:** Jesus asks if it is lawful to do good or harm on the Sabbath.
5. **Healing:** Jesus tells the man to stretch out his hand — it is restored without physical touch.
6. **Response:** The religious leaders are enraged and begin plotting Jesus' death.

📖 GREEK WORD STUDY

Word	Greek	Meaning
Withered	ξηρός (<i>xēros</i>)	Dry, shrunken, paralyzed — also used of dried plants or bones
Restore	ἀποκαθίστημι (<i>apokathistēmi</i>)	To fully restore to original condition
Stretch out	ἐκτείνων (<i>ekteinon</i>)	To extend, often implying action despite limitation
Hardness of heart	πώρωσις (<i>pōrōsis</i>)	Dullness, stubborn resistance, spiritual blindness

🔥 THEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Theme	Explanation
Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath	This miracle, like the grain-picking before it, demonstrates that Jesus defines what is good on the Sabbath. His authority supersedes oral tradition.
Mercy > Sacrifice	Echoes Hosea 6:6: God desires mercy, not legalistic sacrifice. Healing is an act of mercy.
Conflict Rising	This is a pivotal moment in all three Synoptics — it's one of the first direct causes for the plot to kill Jesus.
Sabbath Reversal	Healing on the Sabbath shows that rest in God includes restoration, not paralysis. Jesus redefines Sabbath as a day for healing, not restriction.
Divine Authority	Jesus speaks and healing happens — this echoes God's creative word in Genesis and further affirms Jesus' divinity.

🕊️ MESSIANIC IMPLICATIONS

Prophecy/Theme	Connection
Isaiah 35:5–6	“Then the lame shall leap... the hand restored” — signs of the Messianic age.
Isaiah 58:6–14	True Sabbath is about setting the oppressed free — Jesus fulfills this vision.
Deuteronomy 18:18	The Prophet like Moses speaks God's word — and heals with it.
Psalms 69:4	“Those who hate me without cause are more than the hairs of my head” — anticipates unjust hatred from the religious leaders.