



# Daily Reflections

**January 17, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **Mark 3: 1-6**

Jesus entered the synagogue.

There was a man there who had a withered hand.

They watched Jesus closely

to see if he would cure him on the sabbath

so that they might accuse him.

He said to the man with the withered hand,

"Come up here before us."

Then he said to the Pharisees,

"Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil,

to save life rather than to destroy it?"

But they remained silent.

Looking around at them with anger

and grieved at their hardness of heart,

Jesus said to the man, "Stretch out your hand."

He stretched it out and his hand was restored.

The Pharisees went out and immediately took counsel

with the Herodians against him to put him to death.

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## Our Scripture Reflection

What fundamentalists (and hypocrites) the Pharisees were! Yes, the Law said no work on the Sabbath, but what about a work of mercy? Jesus, the Lord and Savior of all, would not allow Himself to be bound by the rigid attitude of

the religious lawyers. He had a Son of God before Him who desperately needed care and Jesus gave Him exactly what he needed, mercy and love.

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## **Food for your Journey**

The world's greatest fundamentalists -- are fishermen (or golfers).

A fellow had been away fishing all day and had no luck. Not wanting to go home skunked, he stopped off at a local fish shop and asked the storekeeper to pick out three of the largest trout that he had. "Shall I wrap them for you?" asked the fishmonger.

"No," replied the fisherman. "I'll stand here by the door, and you throw them to me from behind the counter." "Why in the world do you want me to throw them to you?" asked the shopkeeper. "Well," said the fisherman, "I've been fishing all day, and I haven't caught a thing. Now I may not be a good fisherman, but I'm a worse liar. And when I get home, my wife and kids are going to ask me if I caught anything . . . and I want to be able to tell them the truth."

--Wesley Taylor

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Lord Jesus, I am not above you. I am not above the world ruling. I am not the master of all things, nor the creator. But, I am your servant, your child, and your love. Help me reside in that place. Help me see my need and confess it to you. Help me be quick to look at myself when I am prone to look over to others. Thank you that you have wild and abundant grace for me. It will not cease. It will not end. It will not let me go. I ask you to restore me in fullness with you. Teach me your ways and help me be receptive to them, so I will not fall. Help me Lord. You rule and I surrender all my ways, thoughts, opinions, perceptions and decisions to you. Amen