



Daily Reflections

January 23, 2019

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.

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus becomes more brazen about revealing His attitude towards showing mercy towards hurting people, especially on the Sabbath. He enters the

Synagogue in order to heal a man with a withered hand. Not only was this man unable to work in order to feed his family because of his infirmity, but he was presumed by the Pharisees to be a sinner afflicted by God because of some sin he or an ancestor must have committed. Once again, Jesus disregards the evil thoughts of the Pharisees and heals the man.

Food for your Journey

By Jesus' time, there were 1,521 things that a person could not do on the Sabbath. For instance, a person with a toothache couldn't gargle with vinegar but could use a toothbrush dipped in vinegar; a radish could be dipped in salt, but not left too long in the salt, lest it begin to pickle No wonder Joy Davidman, the poet-essayist and wife of C.S. Lewis, said that the bigots recast the fourth commandment to read, "Thou shalt not enjoy life on Sunday."

—J. Ellsworth Kalas, *The Ten Commandments From the Back Side* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1998), 47.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You always showed compassion towards people who were hurting no matter the day nor time of day. I pray for the Grace to see the needs of others and the love to do what I can to help them. Amen