



Daily Reflections

January 18, 2017

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 was grieved at their "hardness of heart." Once again, the Lord showed us that there is never an inappropriate time nor place to show mercy to those who are in need. That day, long ago, in the house of prayer known as a synagogue, Jesus violated Sabbath restrictions and showed mercy to a desperate man. May we never miss an opportunity to imitate Jesus.

Food for your Journey

You don't have to be sick to get better. John Stuart Mill spoke for all of us when he said: "Wherever I go, there I am again, and I spoil everything." Sometimes the healing touch we need is not a cure but a growth experience, growth experiences that help us to leave behind the small, the bigoted, the untransformed parts of our lives.

Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, You have been so merciful to me throughout my life. Thank You, Lord. Open my eyes with Your Grace to the needs of others. May I lift them up and love them as You love them. Amen.