

“Obsession”

Luke 6:6-11

March 6, 2022

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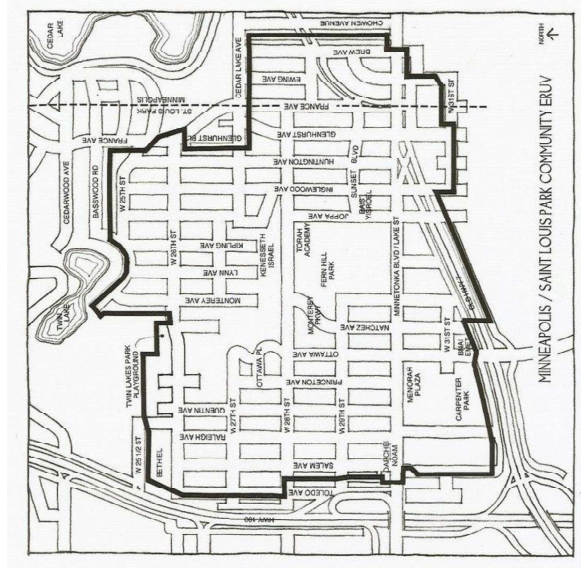
- 6 **On another Sabbath He entered the synagogue and was teaching; and there was a man there whose right hand was withered.**
- 7 The scribes and the Pharisees were watching Him closely to see if He healed on the Sabbath, so that they might find reason to accuse Him.
- 8 But He knew what they were thinking, and He said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!" And he got up and came forward.
- 9 And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to destroy it?"
- 10 After looking around at them all, He said to him, "Stretch out your hand!" And he did so; and his hand was restored.
- 11 But they themselves were filled with rage, and discussed together what they might do to Jesus.

Col 2:8, 16, 17

- 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the **tradition of men**,
- 16 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a **Sabbath day** —
- 17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

3 COMPARISONS

- Legalism** - a system of man-made rules and regulations that result in traditions for achieving both salvation and sanctification. Obeys man-made traditions.
- Antinomianism** – anything goes. We are not bound by any moral Laws. Obeys nothing.
- Obedience** – desire to please God and His Word from the heart. Obeys God’s Word.



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• Luke wants us to know the importance of 2 things in the life of Christ:

1. On the Sabbath Jesus is in the synagogue.
2. On the Sabbath Jesus was teaching.

• Jesus was not checking His “rules and regulations” book.

• What did Jesus do on the Sabbath? Whatever He wanted to do. He is the Lord of the Sabbath.

• The 4th commandment says 2 things about the Sabbath:

1. Remember to rest.
2. Keep it set apart.

“right hand” – only Luke notes this.

“withered” – shriveled, atrophied, something dried-up, maybe from nerve damage or paralysis or an accident.

7 The scribes and the Pharisees were watching Him closely to see if He healed on the Sabbath, so that they might find reason to accuse Him.

3 signs of being obsessed with a religious system:

1st sign of obsession - watching and not listening.

• Here the boys are present from the “legalistic club.”

“watching closely” – like a hawk.

• They were not listening to Jesus.

• The man could have been a plant.

• They see the opportunity or have planned the opportunity –

1. It’s the Sabbath.
2. It’s in the synagogue.
3. A man is in need of a healing.

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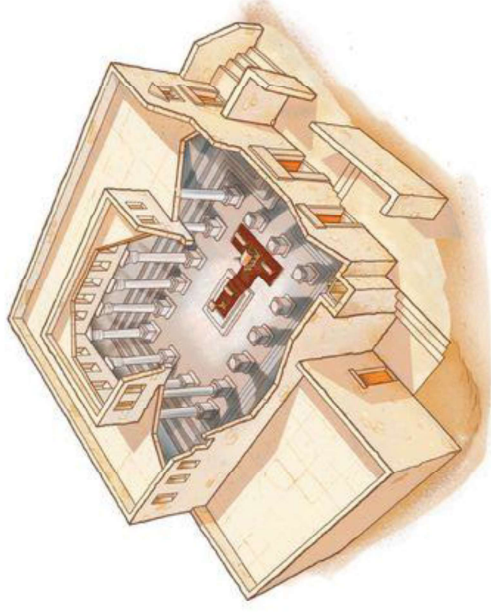
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“If” – 1st class condition – “if and it is true.”

- The “legalistic police” fully expected Jesus to heal on the Sabbath.
- The trap is set. They wanted Him to heal the man so they could accuse Him of breaking the Sabbath.
- Rabbis taught that healing was only permitted if a life was in danger (life threatening situation like someone swallowed a piece of glass; a splinter might be removed from the eye, and even a thorn from the body) and could not wait another day. Birth of a baby and circumcision only other exceptions.
- There is nothing in Scripture that would forbid healing on the Sabbath. Considered an act of mercy.

8 But He knew what they were thinking, and He said to the man with the withered hand, “Get up and come forward!” And he got up and came forward.

- Omniscience is a wonderful thing to have.
- So Jesus flips the tables and now they are walking into His trap.
- Jesus does not cower. He is not afraid to offend. In fact He is purposefully going to offend them.
- Let’s get the truth out and let the chips fall where they may.
- This is true today as well. “Speak the truth in love” but speak the truth. Religious people need to hear the truth.
- So He has the man come forward.
- This is dead center in the room. Everyone can see.
- Pharisees and Scribes are thinking, “This is great. Get him in front of everyone. Everyone in the room is going to see Jesus break Sabbath Law.” He is finished.
- Jesus is thinking, “Let’s get this man front and center and let’s expose this entire works system for what it is, “A bunch of phony-baloney.”
- Think about the man. It may have been hard to come forward.

9 And Jesus said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to destroy it?”

- 2nd sign of obsession – unable to answer the obvious.
- This question is airtight.
- They are on the horns of a dilemma - if they approve doing good and healing the man, they have violated their own law and tradition. If they approve evil they are exposing their own heart of wickedness (which was plotting in their minds to kill Jesus).

Isa 5:20

- 20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
- This is what obsession with a religious system does – it makes you look ridiculous, absurd, lacking reason and credibility.
- **Think about it:** Can there ever be a wrong day to do something good?
- So who is pleasing God? Jesus who wants to do good and heal this man or the scribes and Pharisees who want to kill Jesus?
- They either had to approve Jesus or condemn themselves.
- All they could do is to remain silent.

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- I cannot imagine the tension that this verse is describing.
- You could cut it with a knife.
- Jesus looked at everyone of them in the eye and waited for a response. Nothing.

Mark 3:5

5 After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart,

Matt 23:6

6 "They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues,



10 After looking around at them all, He said to him, "Stretch out your hand!" And he did so; and his hand was restored

- This took some time – the silence was deafening. Jesus is in no hurry.
- These are the experts in the Law. But there is no answer. How embarrassing.
- The healing now seals the deal.
- Note the command comes first and then Jesus grants what He has commanded.
- God asks spiritually “dead” men to repent and then He grants them repentance. He calls dead Lazarus to come forth and then gives him the ability to live and come forth.
- If you are saved. He called you to come forth and repent and believe, and then He granted you the ability to repent, and the faith to believe.

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3rd sign of obsession – insane anger.

"filled with rage" – αἰνοῦντα – without the mind, out of one's mind, to lose one's mind, beyond rational thinking, insanity.

- They lost it at this point:
 1. They could not answer an obvious question.
 2. They had been embarrassed in front of the crowd.
 3. Jesus, not Rome, had become the greatest danger and threat to their religious system, that had taken hundreds of years and much hard work to develop and perfect. "And now some guy is going to blow it all up."
 4. Jesus keeps backing up His statements with healings that cannot be refuted.
 5. Only one option – kill Jesus.

Matt 12:14

14 But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.

Mark 3:6

6 The Pharisees went out and immediately began conspiring with the Herodians against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.

*They had found a common enemy. This is the first time we see 2 totally opposite groups uniting and conspiring against Jesus.

*It will still be over 2 years before they carry out their plan.

"Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law."

Rom 13:8

What are you obsessed with?