

The Gospel of Luke / Lesson 11
Jesus Heals a Crippled Hand

Luke 6:6-11

For Servants,

- Please review the introduction to the Book of Luke and pick some information to focus on.
- It is advisable to have the children take turns in reading the verses so that they get engaged and pay attention. Upon the servant prep. Servant may elect to summarize some verses into a story instead of reading verse by verse.

MEMORY VERSE

JAMES 5:15

And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up.

LESSON TIME!

Lesson Goal: Jesus cares about our needs.

Who can tell me what Jesus did, in our lesson last week to help the paralyzed man? (He healed the paralyzed man who was lowered in from the roof by his friends). Were all the people, in that house, friends of Jesus? (No, there were also enemies of Jesus there.) This week, we will see another time Jesus came into the ordinary and did the extraordinary. **Jesus cares about our needs.**

Remember when we learned that God had been silent for 400 years, from the time of the prophets in the Old Testament to John the Baptist. During those 400 years, there were religious leaders who treated the people cruelly. They added their own rules to God's law and told the people they had to keep all the made-up rules to be truly holy. These religious leaders, called Scribes and Pharisees, had been watching Jesus, and they were jealous of Him.

Luke 6:6-7

6 Now it happened on another Sabbath, also, that He entered the synagogue and taught. And a man was there whose right hand was withered. 7 So the scribes and Pharisees watched Him closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath, that they might find an accusation against Him.

Some Definitions:

Sabbath: is Saturday and that was the day Jews prayed in and went to the temple [synagogue] to worship and hear the word of God; no one is allowed to do work that day

Synagogue: is the Temple where they prayed; similar to the church in our days

Scribes and Pharisees: Jews/ Religious leader

Picture it! Jesus had a good habit of going to God's house to worship on the Sabbath. He also taught from God's word in the Synagogue. This particular Sabbath, there was a man there who had a crippled, withered hand. There were also lots of other people; it was always crowded on the Sabbath. The Scribes and Pharisees were there too. Remember, they were jealous of Jesus. When they saw Jesus arrive, they watched Him with malice, jealousy, and hatred.

They were always looking for a way to get Jesus into trouble. They wanted the people to follow them instead of Jesus. They had noticed the man with the crippled hand, and they waited anxiously for Jesus to see him. They knew Jesus would care deeply for the man and desire to heal him. Jesus always notices those in need, because **Jesus cares about our needs**.

What were the Pharisees hoping for? How did they wish to trap Jesus? One of the rules of the Sabbath was that the people were not supposed to work. God wanted the Sabbath to be a day of rest and a time to focus on Him. To the Lord's Day of rest and worship, the Pharisees had added a set of rules that were impossible to keep. By adding so many strict rules, they had defeated the purpose of the Sabbath--to focus on God. Everyone was too distracted by trying to follow all the rules. One of the ridiculous rules was that you could not heal on the Sabbath; healing was too much like work.

It was with this added rule that they hoped to trap Jesus. They wanted Him to heal the man, not because they cared about him, but because they could say that Jesus worked on the Sabbath. He broke the rule. They wanted to get Jesus into trouble.

Luke 6:8-9

8 But He knew their thoughts, and said to the man who had the withered hand, "Arise and stand here." And he arose and stood. 9 Then Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?"

Jesus did something that proved He was God. He read their minds [He knew their thoughts]. He knew exactly what they wanted. He knew the Scribes and Pharisees wanted Him to heal the man's withered arm to be able to accuse Him of breaking their man-made rules. But that did not stop Jesus.

He went right to the man, and He asked the man to stand up. The man did as Jesus asked. He must have heard about this wonderful Jesus; he knew that **Jesus cares about our needs**. In spite of feeling singled out and probably self-conscious, he stood with Jesus. Then Jesus turned and talked to the Scribes and Pharisees. He asked them a startling question. He did not ask if they thought it was lawful to heal someone on the Sabbath; He asked them if it was lawful to save life or destroy life on the Sabbath.

Those are strong opposites: save or destroy. The Pharisees did not see ignoring this man's need of healing as destroying him. Jesus was trying to show them that in the presence of someone who has a great need you only have two choices; you do good to him or you harm him. Ignoring him is doing him harm. **Jesus cares about our needs.**

We often have the same decision to make--to save or to destroy. We must do good to people. If we choose to do nothing when someone has a need, it is the same as doing harm to him. Jesus is showing us a greater rule than the Pharisees had; those who break the rule of God's Sabbath are those who would leave a man in agony instead of trying to help him. Jesus helped him because **Jesus cares about our needs.**

What do we learn from Jesus's Actions today?

- To do the right thing even if the people around us think otherwise [Example; if the whole school saying it is ok for a boy to dress like a girl or a girl dress like a boy; we still do the right thing.]
- To help those in need because ignoring helping them is actually harming them [Example; if the church is in need to pay their bills and we can support and put our alms we do so to help]

Luke 6:10

10 And when He had looked around at them all, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored as whole as the other

Let's take a close look at this man. He is standing as Jesus asks him to. Everyone is staring at his withered hand...watching, waiting. Jesus turns and gently says "Stretch your hand." The Bible tells us the man stretched out his hand. Wow! He did not say, "Oh Jesus, everybody's looking at me, and anyway, you know I can't stretch it out. It won't open. It's all crippled and curled up." Instead, this man shows great faith and trust in Jesus. He knew that **Jesus cares about our needs.**

He trusted that Jesus was able to meet his need. Jesus is able to heal. This man with the withered hand obeyed in faith. He stretched out his hand, which normally would not stretch or move at all, and it was made well! It was as perfect as his other good hand. That is faith. When Jesus asks us to do something, even if it seems impossible, we need to obey Him, trusting He will give us the strength we need.

I bet everybody in the whole synagogue was rejoicing and excited! Let's see:

Luke 6:11

11 But they were filled with rage, and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

What? A man gets healed perfectly, right there in front of them, and they are enraged? That means they were so mad that they could barely see straight! These men were so filled up with thinking about themselves; they did not care about the man or his withered hand. They did not care about the crowd watching. They did not care that Jesus was doing miracles. They just cared that Jesus was attracting more people to Himself than they were. They knew that **Jesus cares about our needs.**

Instead of being happy about the fact that Jesus does care, they were mad and jealous. It did not make sense. It was illogical. Jesus is always logical. He is tender and compassionate and loving. He always does good when there is a need. He never ignores our needs. He comes and says, "Stretch forth your need towards Me, and let Me touch it and heal it." We can be like the man with the crippled hand and, by faith, stretch our need to Jesus for Him to touch and heal, knowing that **Jesus cares about our needs.**

What kind of needs do we have for Jesus to touch and heal? It may not be a crippled hand, or perhaps it is being afraid of the dark or something else that cripples us with fear. Maybe we feel like we do not know how to make friends, and we are crippled with shyness. Maybe we fight with our brothers and sisters, and we are crippled with anger. Maybe we struggle with obeying our parents, and we feel crippled by the lack of self-control.

Jesus tells us that we can stretch out that thing, whatever it is, and trust Him to help us and heal us. He will, because **Jesus cares about our needs**. No matter how big or small, how noticeable or hidden it is, He sees, and He cares. He is simply waiting for us to stretch out our withered hands so He can help us. He will not let any enemy or crowd stop Him from working His love and power in our lives. Nothing can stop Jesus from doing His work when we, by faith, receive His help and stand with Him. Remember **Jesus cares about our needs**.

1 Peter 5:6-7 tells us, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

I Cast All My Cares Upon You...

Let the Children know that we will gather those prayer notes and put them on the alter on their behalf:

On a piece of paper, have the children write an area of their lives they need to "cast upon Him." Have them write their names and the names of the people they wanted to pray for. Let Abouna know in a text msg or a call and make sure to put all their prayers on the alter the next liturgy

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer, requesting that the Lord heal the things in our lives that we stretch out to Him and thanking Him that we can cast all of our cares upon Him.

Email to parents

Dear Parents,

In the lesson this week, we learned about the time when Jesus healed a man's withered hand (Luke 6:6-11). We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. Jesus had a great deal of compassion. He always put people first, even before all of the religious leader's traditions. We learn from this story that Jesus cares about our needs. Though we may not understand all the circumstances of our life, we can be confident God will always take care of us because of His great love for us. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together. Please encourage your children to write their prayer and put it on the alter. We taught them so this week.

Video