

# The Touch of Jesus

*“Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.” (Luke 4:40)*

Lessons from miracles Jesus did, as they are recorded in the Book of Luke.

## LESSON 3: Healing a Withered Hand

*“And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other.”*

(Luke 6:10)

As you listen to the teacher, fill in the blanks!

1. The palsy mentioned in Luke 5 involved \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ miracles are more important than \_\_\_\_\_ miracles.
3. The strange twist in the story of the healing of palsy is the fact that Jesus spoke of \_\_\_\_\_ rather than healing when the man was brought to Him.

Of course, the Lord Jesus did many, many miracles. Although all of His healing miracles were very helpful to people, some of them were very controversial with other people. The miracle in the synagogue recorded in Luke 6:6-11 was one of the most controversial of His miracles. *“A man whose right hand was withered”* came to the sabbath service of the synagogue, and the Pharisees wondered if Jesus would dare to heal on the holy day of rest. He and His disciples had openly broken the sabbath laws before (See Luke 6:1-5). Would He do it again this day?

### ***“An Accusation Against Him”***

They wanted to accuse Jesus of wrongdoing because they feared His fame and His claims. Isn't it interesting that even the Son of God was criticized? We should not be discouraged if somebody criticizes our service for the Lord! Even when Jesus did “good” He was blamed and accused. See what He said would happen to us if we serve God as He did—Luke 6:22-23. See also what Jesus said in Matthew 5:11. False accusation is to be expected in the service of the Lord. That's one reason we should not believe everything we hear against Christians who are trying to do some good. It's also the reason we should never get discouraged, no matter what people say. If a criticism is valid (even a little bit),

learn from it. If it is false or without merit, forget it.

### ***“Stretch Forth Thy Hand”***

Jesus did miracles a number of different ways. He commanded unclean spirits to come out of people (Luke 4:36). He rebuked a fever (Luke 4:39). He laid his hands on sick people (Luke 4:40). He touched the leper (Luke 5:13). In the cases of the palsy and the withered hand, however, He did something different, and very instructive He told the handicapped person to do the impossible. To the crippled man He said, *“Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house”* (Luke 5:24). To the man with the withered hand, he said, *“Stretch forth thy hand.”* Several other miracles were worked in this same way. He commanded a dead man to rise (Luke 7:14). He told His disciples to feed a multitude with five loaves of bread and two fish (Luke 9:13). He did these things to show us that His commands always come with the power to fulfill them. A great man used to say that *“you can do what you ought to do.”* This is really what Philippians 4:13 means, *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”* If it takes miraculous power to obey a command of Christ, that power will be supplied to the one who decides to obey. See Acts 5:32.

### ***“They Were Filled With Madness.”***

The word *“madness”* in Luke 6:11 means, as it does everywhere else it is used in the King James Bible, insanity and not anger. Great anger is certainly implied in this verse, but the Greek word here actually has the idea of “no mind.” Mark 3:6 makes it clear that the scribes and Pharisees were actually plotting to *kill* Jesus over the sabbath issue! They were out of their minds about this matter. And yet even though they finally carried out those plans, and even though those plans were wicked and insane, the will of God was still accomplished. See this in Luke 22:22. You see, God is in total control. Although he allows men to do bad things (Acts 2:23-24) and even crazy things, He still overrules the result so that ultimately His plan is accomplished!