

What about the impossible? Matthew 12:9-13 (The King and His Kingdom)

9 Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue. 10 And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—**that they might accuse Him.**

11 Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? 12 Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

13 Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other.

Today Big idea: God's Commandments are God's enablements.

A)The Lord never asks us to do something that he doesn't give us the power to carry out.

B)Today we see an illustration of that principle in our story.

C)Glean some insights in how exactly that is carried out!

3 Main Characters in this story!

#1 A Man with a need And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand.-

A)The Greek word for Withered is xéros – means dry – dry landscape – Desert is parched -

B)When a portion of the body is drained of fluids and sapped of its strength

C)Dried up – Shriveled up – withered

1)Paralyzed – deformed -

D)Something caused this man's hand to become paralyzed -

E)Imagine the impact on this man's life.

Vocationally

A) The historian Jerome tells us there is strong traditional evidence that the man with the paralyzed hand was a **stone mason.**

B) If that is so, his paralysis would have very definitely affected his income.

1) Almost impossible to make a living.

C) Therefore the well being of his entire family would have been affected.

D)Imagine men: What your life would be like if your ability to support your family was suddenly gone

Emotionally

A)Men have the tendency to find our sense of worth in what we do!

B)Men naturally and gladly carry this weight of responsibility – take care of our families!

C)Not being able to do that – cause for depression – and discouragement

D)Harder to do things around the house – harder to play with his kids – dad lets play catch

1) So his whole life was affected by his injury

But I also want you to notice where this man is at – HE IS AT CHURCH.

A)He is at the Synagogue – He hasn't given up on God

B)The Guy was at Church – Right place to be when you are hurting!

C) Time you need to be here the most is when you least feel like being here.

1) Giving God that opportunity to speak and work

D) This day this man's life would be forever changed

So first we are drawn to the man with the withered hand – #2 A group with a grudge! Scribes & Pharisees

A)They despised Jesus – Jealous of Jesus – looking for a reason to accuse him – bring him down.

B)Something to DISCREDIT HIM

V.10 – They asked Jesus V.10 "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—that they might accuse Him.

A)THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES – made their living – studying the law of God

B) You could say they were obsessed with laws

C) Their Pet Peeve was the Sabbath –

1) **No work on the Sabbath: -**

Sabbath was one of the Ten Commandments

A) Awesome God – Put in his top ten – Take a day off

He knows that we need it!

B) The Problem was the religious leaders in Israel had made what God meant to be a blessing –

1) **THEY TURNED IT INTO A BURDEN.**

C) They wrote a book (**that devoted 24 chapters**) to what it meant to keep the Sabbath.

D) They had **39 different violations** and a host of categories that went along with those violations

That is what happens when people get obsessed with laws – they make crazy laws

A) We have some of those on the books in this country.

B) Some crazy laws:

Alabama

*It is illegal for a driver to be blindfolded while operating a motor vehicle.

What prompted the need for that law?

Two guys – let's see how far we can get on the freeway driving blind folded!

California

Women may not drive in a housecoat.

Now all you ladies who take your kids to school in your PJ's – Busted – I have seen some of you

Washington

You can't carry a concealed weapon that is over 6 feet in length.

So if you are 6'2 and you want to conceal a Bazooka – make sure it is only 5'11 at the most

Florida

A special law prohibits unmarried women from parachuting on Sunday

Men may not be seen publicly in any kind of strapless gown.

They say California is weird !!!!

So the religious leaders in Israel had taken God's simple command – to Remember the Sabbath

A) Added all these crazy redactions to it – so that the command that was meant to be a blessing

B) **BECAME A BURDEN**

C) Now in Mark Chapter 2 Jesus hits at the heart of where they went wrong: Mark 2:27-28

V. 27-28 **"The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.**

The Sabbath was made for man - - the Sabbath was meant to bless man – to serve man

A) Not man for the Sabbath – the Sabbath was not meant to be a ball and chain for man

B) Man wasn't made to serve the Sabbath the Sabbath was made to serve man/ Bless man

28 Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."

But the religious leaders had so twisted and distorted the Commandment

A) They Said- According to the Talmud -On the Sabbath day; all work was forbidden and **to heal was to work.**

B) So because they are looking for a reason to CONDEMN JESUS

1) **Will Jesus heal this man on the Sabbath ?**

C) Side note: DON'T BE A SIN SNIFFER!

1) Always looking for what is wrong – waiting for bros and sisters make a mistake. {**Pharisee heart**}

D) So they ask the question to Jesus **"Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"**

#3 A Savior with compassion - Jesus

A) I think it really says a lot about Jesus –

B) These religious leaders studied Jesus – they knew his habits – they knew his tendencies / his STYLE

C) They knew he went to church on the Sabbath

1) He would be in the synagogue

D) They knew Jesus would have been drawn to the person in that synagogue with the greatest need!

His heart of compassion: Feel the pain of others –

A) He was always drawn to the person with the greatest need!

B) **Still true today: This sanctuary** – this gathering

1) Jesus knows the needs – his heart goes out to you.

C) He wants you to know – not alone – He wants to work!

D) Jesus answers them with a question: V11-12

"What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? 12 Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

A) The big question: What it really gets down to is this: Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath?

B) Here is a point Jesus is always teaching in regards to these matters:

"Human need always supersedes religious ritual."

C) When religious ritual ignores human need – it is always wrong.

D) Good Samaritan: The Religious guys who were all caught up in their duty – neglected the man with the need – CONDEMNED

Jesus commends the Samaritan who stopped and cared for Him –

A) One thing He was illustrating there: **"Human need always supersedes religious ritual."**

B) So here Jesus is in this synagogue – this man with the withered hand.

1) He doesn't care what day it is – If he did he could have easily said to the man - meet me tomorrow

C) This was an opportunity to do good!

1) So Jesus says to the man- **Stretch forth your hand**

#4 A Powerful Command – Stretch forth your hand

A) This is really the HEART OF our message today – DON'T MISS THE SIGNIFICANCE

B) JESUS was asking this man to do something that was impossible. –

1) His hand was shriveled up – he couldn't stretch it out.

C) **It was impossible** for this man to stretch forth his hand – DEFORMED

D) Some might have considered it mean or insensitive – **Jesus asking this man to do what he couldn't do –**

1) Like asking a blind person to look at a picture – **That would be cruel**

But that is what Jesus does:

"Jesus always brings MEN face to face with the impossible and lays upon them a command that in their own strength they cannot obey" Morgan

A) If you were this man – what would have been your response? – What would you have done?

B) Before you answer in the positive: Let me ask you how do you respond now – when Jesus asks you to do something – YOU THINK IS IMPOSSIBLE?

C) LOVE THAT hard-to-love person?

1) Forgive the person who wrongs you?

D) Follow through in obedience to something he is prompting your heart in?

1) Take a step of faith in an area of ministry

E) Do you respond with excuses? – Do you tell him I can't –

1) Do you give him a 100 reasons why that will not work for you?

Now this man could have argued: . 'That's easy for You to say. My hand is paralyzed. How can I stretch it forth?'

A) The man could have argued with Jesus.

B) He didn't do that - Instead, he simply obeyed.

C) He didn't argue. He didn't debate.

1) He simply said, 'OK,' — **and as he stretched out his hand, the Lord met him in that place.**

D) Note this and it reads the same in every gospel account - **And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other.**

E) Key word is AND **and it was restored as whole as the other.**

Here is the idea: The healing occurred AS HE OBEYED! – NOT BEFORE

A) The text doesn't read in any gospel – His hand was restored – and he stretched it out

B) The opposite: This man responds in faith – I don't know how I am going to do this –

1) He goes to move his hand – in that direction

C) And that is when the miracle takes place

1) **When the man responded – the miracle happened**

This reminds us of a powerful and important biblical principle. – WHAT ABOUT THE IMPOSSIBLE?

A) **God's commandments are His enablements**

B) Another way: **When God speaks, power is released.**

C) In other words: The Lord never ever asks us to do something

1) that He doesn't give us the power to carry out!

D) If you can grab that simple concept, the Word of GOD will become **extremely exciting to you.**

THERE IS NO LIMITS

A) If I am looking at myself alone – **His commands are impossible and unreasonable.**

B) But **when I see** that the power of God is behind the command –

C) it becomes both possible and reasonable

1) **EXAMPLES**

Maybe you are here today saying: I am really depressed –

A) I have been prayed for / I've read all the self help books / followed all the techniques – to no avail

B) The Lord's word to you today is simply: **'Rejoice evermore... For this is the will of God, in Christ Jesus concerning you.'** (I Thessalonians 5:16).

C) Now you can argue and give 101 reasons why you can't do that – can't rejoice

1) or you can say, **'If the Word tells me to rejoice evermore, I will now start rejoicing.'**

D) And in the very act of beginning to rejoice, you'll find reason & power to continue to rejoice.

1) **GOD'S COMMANDMENTS are His ENABLEMENTS**

Maybe your struggle is w/ bitterness & unforgiveness.

A) The Lord's word to you today is simple

Ephesians 4:31-32

"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

B) Now again you can come up with 1000 reasons why you can't do that – or why you shouldn't do that

1) Or you can say – if the word tells me to not be bitter and to forgive

C) God's commandments are God's enablements

1) Today I am going to stretch forth my withered hand and forgive – **speak what is right**

You say: I can't love again = Trust has been broken and consequently you have said:–

A) I will never be able to trust again

B) Jesus would say to you today: **Stretch out your heart – I will pour my love into it!**

Romans 5:5 **The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

Eph 5:2 walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us,

I can't – Sure you can – My love is yours

D)Ok - I am going to start treating that brother or sister the way Jesus would.

1)Believing – Jesus is going to supply you with the very thing needed to do JUST THAT!

Now understand – it is that simple – but it is not easy

A)Our flesh rebels against this – that is why it is a daily practice –

B) Where you say: Today Lord in your Power and in your strength – ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD – 1)I will do what you command me to do.

C) As I look at myself – seems unreasonable and impossible

D)But when I take my eyes off of me and put them on to you – your power – your grace –

1)your strength in my weakness – Possible – reasonable – RIGHT ON!

The Word says, 'Husbands, love your wives,' (Ephesians 5:25).

A)Now you can argue – but Lord you don't know my wife 'You don't know what we've been through,'

B) You can come up with a plethora of reasons why that is impossible and unreasonable request

1) Or you can say – Lord your word tells me to love my wife. So I will love my wife.'

C) And AS you're doing it, God will give you the power to carry it out.

D)And he is going to begin to change your heart

1)Love will replace bitterness and anger

'Wives, submit to your husbands,' (Ephesians 5:22).

RESPECT HIM.

A)You can argue and say why this is impossible.

B) Or you can say, 'Lord, Your commandment is MY enablement. I will do it today.'

1) And you will receive power.

If you're struggling with ADDICTIONS

A)drugs, alcohol, pornography,

B)the Lord would say to you today,

'Reckon yourself dead unto sin, but alive to Jesus Christ,' (Romans 6:11).

C) So if you go home, throw it away and say, 'I'm going to obey the command of Christ,' you'll find power and victory.

D) Daily you ask the Lord to help you do that reckon yourself dead to those things – temptation comes....

We could go on and on

A)Every one of us is withered in some area of our lives. We know that.

B)But we do not have to be !

C)The solution is simply to obey the command of Christ.

1)And as you do, He'll meet you at that point and give you the power to carry it out.

Here is the problem: Often times we make this mistake: We say –

- **I will rejoice when I stop feeling depressed. Lord take away my depression**
- **Or I will forgive when my bitterness goes away- Lord take it away.**
- **I will Love my spouse, when Jesus takes away my anger – Lord please take away my anger.**
- **I will quit using when –my craving for my addiction goes away – Lord take away the craving.**

The Lord would say you have it backwards –

A)I am giving you a command to walk in a new way of life. – NEW CREATION in Christ Old things have passed away

B)Jesus says: In the command is the power to carry out the command –

C)What you are desiring to take place in your life will take place as you walk in my Word.

1)Obedience to my word is met with the Power to live it out – when you choose to walk in it

D)So Walk in it – Embrace it –

Once I quit saying why **I can't**; once I quit arguing w/ the Word and saying, '**It's not that easy**';

A)Once I quit saying, 'I'm an exception to the rule,'

B)and instead say, '**Lord, if You say it, I'll do it. Period.**'

He meets me there and a miracle takes place.

Can I encourage you today: take the Lord up on His command and Stretch forth your hand

A)Whatever that means for you – today

B)CALLING AS A MOM- OVERWHELMING
My Commandments are Your enablements –

Calling as Dad to lead your family – Do it walk in it

A)His Commandments are your enablement

B)Some life – Withered by Sin – Don't know Jesus – initial step today –

C)Jesus said this about the Devil –“He is a thief.”
John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

D)Your heart has been stolen – joy killed – Satan wants to destroy your life.

1)Up to now – done a good job – Wasted – mess

E)Jesus said of Himself

“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

He says to you today- Come to me

Stand forth.

Stretch out your hand.

And be made whole.

In need of transformation today?

Wrestling with:

- ❖ Marriage
- ❖ Depression
- ❖ Addiction