

Withered Hand

CHARACTERS: Narrator, JESUS, scribes and Pharisees, Herodians, withered hand guy, crowd.

PROPS: none

SETTING: A synagogue

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Matthew 12:9-14, Mark 3:1-6, Luke 6:6-11

F K reading level: 6.7

NARRATOR: Once upon a time – the Sabbath to be exact – a bunch of people gathered at the synagogue. One guy had a withered hand. It was shriveled up and useless, making this guy's life pretty miserable and useless. At the synagogue, when he tried to shake hands with people, they acted like he had cooties. The scribes and Pharisees were especially bad with their noses in the air because they thought they were better than everybody else, especially a guy who could only use one hand for everything.

Jesus came in and the scribes and Pharisees watched him closely. They got out their magnifying glasses and telescopes and watched him like a cat watches a mouse. They whispered to each other and pointed at the guy with the useless hand. They wanted to trap Jesus and get him to break a law so one of them shoved the poor guy with the shriveled up hand right into of Jesus so the guy would have to use both hands to try to keep from falling down. Jesus was as calm and cool as a cucumber. He helped the man, never once acting like he was afraid he was going to get cooties. The man hurried to the back so no one could push him again. Now Jesus knew exactly what the Pharisees and scribes were thinking without having to do a Vulcan mind meld. He asked them

JESUS: If your sheep falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out?

NARR: The Pharisees and scribes stuck their noses way up into the air and nobody answered because they knew Jesus had outsmarted them by asking this question. So Jesus asked another trick question.

JESUS: How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep!

NARR: All the scribes and Pharisees got real busy checking their watches and cell phones and anything else so they could avoid having to answer the question. Everybody knew the answer was a man is more important than a sheep and they knew Jesus was about to make a point they wouldn't like.

JESUS: So obviously, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.

NARR: Jesus motioned to the man to come forward. He did. Jesus looked around, scowling, at all the spectators. They all zipped their lips and were silent.

JESUS: Stretch out your hand.

NARR: The man obeyed and quicker than you can say "handshake" his hand was restored. It was normal and working. Instead of being happy, the Pharisees went out and formed a huddle with the Herodians to plot against Jesus.