THE WITHERED HAND

Matthew 12: 9 -13

1. There will always be needs for physical healings, even in the church. (#9 & #10)

2. There will always be critics and intimidators who are used (by satan), to hinder the move of God. (#10) Such ones will put a 'religious' spin on things to make themselves look righteous. God looks at our heart. (I Samuel 16:7-b)

3. Human life is always more important than animal life. Jesus brought this into prospective in verses #11 & #12. "How much then is a man better than a sheep?"

This brings the realization to us today, that human life, the unborn and elderly, are more important than animal life. We should do everything we can to save human life. So many liberals have the wrong focus. They try to save the rare owl or bats, while condoning abortion with an applause!

4. Jesus explains the balance of honoring the sabbath. (#12) "Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days."

See: Mark 2:27 & 28 - "The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath; therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath." Let's interpret 'sabbath' as 'rest' or day of rest. So man was not made for rest, it was rest that was made for man. The 4th commandment was not a moral law, but a ceremonial one. It goes back to the Israelites being delivered from Egyptian bondage, where there was no rest. (Exodus 5:15) All of the other 9 commandments were moral laws.

God told us in Hosea 2:11, that someday He would do away with the old Jewish sabbath. "I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts."

Today, in this dispensation, christians are permitted to keep any day as the sabbath.
(See: Ro. 14:1-13; Gal. 4:9-11; Col. 2:14-17)

Colossians 2:16 - "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:"

Sometimes people are ridged with ritual rules. They leave no room for the Holy Spirit to use them to do miracles or experience the move of God in their life.

5. We need to act in faith to receive our breakthroughs. The man with the withered hand had to put action to his faith. "Stretch forth thine hand." (#13)

See: James 2:14; 17; 20; 24; 26. Verse #26-"...so faith without works is dead also."

The man who had the withered hand OBEYED!

6. The breakthrough came!
"... it was restored whole, like as the other."
See: Jeremiah 30: 17.

Note: When Jesus heals, He heals good!

Jesus always wants to heal us. There was no person in His earthly healing ministry that He did not want to heal. (Matt. 12:15-b)

In John 5:6, Jesus asked the man who was by the pool of Bethesda, "... wilt thou be made whole?"

Jesus, who is "the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8), is asking us the same question today, "wilt thou be made whole?" Truly it is "according to your faith be it unto you." (Matthew 9:29)

He's in the restoration business. Let Him restore your body, soul and spirit now.

Jeremiah 30:17 - "For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord..."