



The Gospel of the Day is an encounter with a group of people, who got stuck in their own "comfortable zones" of interpreting and understanding the Scriptures, failing to be open to the True Author of the Scriptures and thus failing to tread the path of mercy, compassion, and charity.

The Gospel passage is another Sabbath Day controversy. Jesus is in the synagogue, teaching and proclaiming God's Word. His words would bring strength and courage to those in despair. His teaching would fill with the hope of those who were stranded on the peripheries of life. His preaching would invigorate those who were sapped of energy and felt themselves rejected.

Among those who heard Him in the synagogue, was "a man whose right hand was withered" (Lk 6: 6). It's not mentioned how did he begin to have a withered hand - maybe he was born so, maybe he met with an accident and maybe he had a sickness which made it so

But having a withered right hand had its own implications and difficulties to pose. Right hand in the Bible, usually refers to being the hand of blessing, being the hand of strength and being the hand of labor.

So this man with the **withered right hand** is portrayed as being disfigured in his purpose and goals of life and pitiable in being rendered weak and sort of helpless

But more than this man with the physical disability, there were also some others, who had a "withered mentality" – the Pharisees. They had God, the source and origin of the Law, as their "right hand". They had the privilege of learning and knowing the Scriptures, as their "right hand"

But, unfortunately, we find them with “withered” Their focus on God, the purpose and goal of the Law was “withered”! Their opportunity to interpret and understand the Scriptures properly was “withered”!

To the man who had the physically withered right hand, Jesus said, “Stretch out your hand” (Lk 6:10)

Probably these words were also directed or perhaps intended more for the Pharisees who were “withered” in their understanding and mentality regarding the Law and the Author of the Law Himself! Jesus was asking them to “stretch out their hands” which were withered because they failed to understand the basic purpose of God’s Law which was aimed at reflecting on God’s Goodness and to reflect the same in their lives because they were stuck to their own rigid and arrogant interpretation of God’s Word and failed to put into practice the real meaning of God’s Word which is to do good, show mercy and extend charity

Are those words, “stretch out your hand” being directed to us also? Are we failing to center our lives on the Precious Gift that God has blessed us with – His Holy Word in the Holy Bible – and failing to make efforts to read, learn more and understand God’s Word properly and effectively

Do we consciously cultivate practices which help us to set apart time (on a daily, regular basis) to read the Bible and reflect and shape our lives, in the light of the Holy Word of God? Do we remain rigid, obstinate and closed to the voice of the Holy Spirit, who speaks to us, through different sermons, write-ups, talks, etc. on the Word of God and allow transformations to happen in my life? Do we be zealous to learn God's Word more deeply, to know Him more and to cultivate a personal taste to understand the Scriptures better with self-reflection?

### **Let us pray:**

Lord, give me wisdom and guide me to do good and to save life rather than to do evil or to destroy life. May the Holy Spirit inspire me to read and reflect the Word of God in my daily life.

**Jesus, I Trust In You**