

## Western Wisdom Bible Study



### Healing of the Withered Hand

*And when he was departed thence, he went into the synagogue:*

*And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered, And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day? that they might accuse him.*

*And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?*

*How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.*

*Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other.*

*Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.*

—Matthew 2:9-14.

Here again the Pharisees are endeavoring to trap Christ Jesus into saying something which they could use in accusing Him of defying the law. Their strict and literal interpretation, their intolerance and quick condemnation of anyone who deviated from the letter of the law, crowded all mercy and compassion from their hearts. Even now we see this pharisaic attitude all too commonly displayed, sometimes in its subtlest form by occult students, but it must yield and slowly is yielding to the unifying power of the Christ Love.

Today people in civilized countries hardly can imagine anyone's refusing an opportunity to help or heal another just because it occurs on the Sabbath, a happy testimony to the gradual giving way of the regime of law to the regime

of Love. Nevertheless, we still need to be on constant guard that we do not permit rules and regulations, which all deal with the form side of life, to interfere with or hinder the expression of the Christ qualities of mercy and love which every human being has latent within him, and which are destined to become the basic guides for living all over the world. The healing of the withered hand is a remarkable case of instantaneous healing by faith, that magic power which can accomplish seeming miracles. The patient in this case had such a complete faith in the Master Healer that he immediately put forth his hand when told to do so, without doubt in his mind as to the outcome. When one's whole being is attuned to the complete faith of mind and heart, there is no limit to what may be accomplished.

"The hand," we are told in *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, "is man's most valuable servant: its dexterity enables it to respond to his slightest bidding. In some vocations, such as a bank teller, the delicate touch of the hand becomes so sensitive that it is able to distinguish a counterfeit coin from a genuine in a way so marvelous that one would almost think the hand were endowed with individual intelligence." The same holds true, perhaps to an even greater degree, for those who play musical instruments.

From the occult viewpoint we may think of the hands as symbolizing the two paths of service in the world—the head and the heart. In Luke's account of the healing of the withered hand, he states that it was the right hand. He thus probably is indicating that the right hand corresponds to the love power within man, which had become "withered" in this case by the materialistic intellect, and was quickly restored by the inflow of divine Love which the Christ was able to bestow upon the afflicted one. □