

Spurgeon's Notes on Mark

3:5 - A man was present in the synagogue who had a shriveled hand. In the same synagogue was the Savior, ready to restore that hand. What a fortunate meeting! The Pharisees sat watching Jesus, not to be delighted by an act of his power but to find something for which they might accuse him. When it was all over, the most they would be able to allege would be that Jesus had healed a shriveled hand on the Sabbath. The Savior put plainly before them the question, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath days, or to do evil?" The question only allowed one reply. But they declined to answer one of the simplest questions in morals. They had looked on him; now he looked on them. In that look were two things: anger and grief--indignation and inward sorrow. Jesus was angry that they should willingly blind their eyes to a truth so plain. He had put to them a question to which there could only be one answer, and they would not give it. Mingled with his anger was grief. He was heartbroken because of "the hardness of their hearts." Their blind enmity grieved him because it was securing their own destruction. But his anger ended with that look; he spoke no word of rebuke. Jesus did not speak a word, and yet he said more without words than another person could have said with words. He saved his words for the man with the shriveled hand: "Stretch forth thine hand." What a disgrace to our race, for people to be so inhuman as to wish to see a fellow human being remain deformed and to dare to blame the gentle physician who was about to make him perfectly whole! Humans indeed are at enmity with God when they find an argument for hate in a deed of love.