

# John 7:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?

## Analysis

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If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day? Jesus completes His argument. If circumcision (affecting one body part) proceeds on Sabbath 'that the law...not be broken,' then healing an entire person (holon anthrōpon hugiē) should be celebrated, not condemned. 'Every whit whole' emphasizes complete restoration—not partial but total healing. The question 'are ye angry' (cholate) exposes their misplaced indignation. They're zealous for Sabbath tradition but indifferent to human suffering. Reformed theology sees here Christ's priorities: people over protocol, mercy over ceremony, substance over shadow.

## Historical Context

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The Pharisaic tradition had developed complex Sabbath rules while Jesus emphasized Sabbath's redemptive purpose. The healed man had been paralyzed 38 years (John 5:5)—his healing wasn't life-threatening emergency but compassionate mercy. Jesus deliberately healed on Sabbath multiple times (Luke 13:10-17, 14:1-6, John 9:14) to challenge legalism and reveal God's heart. Early Christians wrestled with Sabbath observance as gospel spread to Gentiles (Romans 14:5, Colossians 2:16).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus's Sabbath ministry reveal God's priorities?
2. What modern religious traditions might obscure biblical mercy and compassion?
3. How do we balance respect for tradition with faithfulness to Scripture's heart?

## Interlinear Text

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εἰ	περιτομήν	λαμβάνει	ἄνθρωπον	ἐν	σαββάτῳ	ἵνα	
If	circumcision	receive	a man	on	the sabbath day	G2443	
G1487	G4061	G2983	G444	G1722	G4521		
μὴ	λυθῇ	ὁ	νόμος	Μωσέως,	ἐμοὶ	χολᾷτε	ὅτι
G3361	be broken	G3588	the law	of Moses	at me	are ye angry	because
	G3089		G3551	G3475	G1698	G5520	G3754
ὅλον	ἄνθρωπον	ὅλην	ἐποίησα	ἐν	σαββάτῳ		
every whit	a man	whole	I have made	on	the sabbath day		
G3650	G444	G5199	G4160	G1722	G4521		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 12:5** (Word): Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?

**Matthew 12:2** (Word): But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.

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