

Mark 3:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.

Analysis

Jesus 'entered again into the synagogue'—returning to public worship and teaching despite rising opposition. The phrase 'again' (πάλιν) indicates repeated pattern—Jesus regularly participated in synagogue worship, demonstrating continuity with Jewish worship forms while transforming their content. The man 'with a withered hand' suffered chronic disability—the perfect participle indicates long-standing condition. 'Withered' suggests muscle atrophy, making the hand functionally useless. Jesus' encounter sets up another Sabbath controversy, testing whether Jesus will prioritize mercy over Pharisaic regulation. The man's passive presence contrasts with active faith elsewhere—he didn't seek Jesus but became the object of compassionate initiative.

Historical Context

Synagogues served as local Jewish worship centers in most towns with Jewish population. Sabbath services included Torah reading and teaching. Physical disabilities often resulted in social marginalization and economic hardship—no disability support, limited employment options, dependence on charity. Yet Jewish law welcomed disabled into worship. Jesus' willingness to heal on Sabbath challenged Pharisaic priorities.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' regular synagogue attendance demonstrate that authentic faith engages with religious community despite opposition?
2. What 'withered' areas of your life need Jesus' healing touch?
3. How does this passage challenge you to view disabled or marginalized people as Jesus did?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εἰσῆλθεν	πάλιν	εἰς	τὴν	συναγωγήν	καὶ	ἡν
And	he entered	again	into	G3588	the synagogue	And	there was
G2532	G1525	G3825	G1519		G4864	G2532	G2258
ἐκεῖ	ἄνθρωπος	ἐξηραμμένην		ἔχων	τὴν	χεῖρα	
there	a man	a withered		which had	G3588	hand	
G1563	G444	G3583		G2192		G5495	

Additional Cross-References

Mark 1:21 (Parallel theme): And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.
