

Session 4: Healing the Sick and Distressed

Case studies of Jesus, M.D. See Him heal a sick son, hemorrhaging woman, and an edematous man.

Jesus cured the nobleman's son (John 4:46-54)

Jesus enters Cana in Galilee

So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. - John 4:46 RSV.

Jesus and His followers **had just come from Jerusalem for Passover** where Jesus had cleansed the temple. The **Galileans loathed the abuse of the temple**, and the greed and arrogance of the priests. As a result, **there was great interest in Jesus in Galilee, that He may in fact be the Messiah.**

In nearby Capernaum a son is sick

And at Capernaum there was an official¹⁶³ whose **son was ill.** - John 4:46 RSV

Capernaum was **16 miles from Cana** and thus **could be walked in less than 8 hours.**

When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went - John 4:47

Jesus was the man's last hope

His son was severely sick with what was **thought to be an incurable disease. He had exhausted the help available** from the area's physicians **who had given him up to die.** Having heard of Jesus he determined to seek help from Him.¹⁶⁴

He had to meet Jesus in person

The father knew in leaving **his son he might not survive** until he returned, but **he had to present the case in person.**

"He hoped that a **father's prayers might awaken the sympathy** of the Great Physician."¹⁶⁵

The father doubts when he sees Jesus

¹⁶³ An official was a royal officer, who was believed to be a Jew.

¹⁶⁴ White, Ellen. Desire of Ages. p 196.3.

¹⁶⁵ White, Ellen. Desire of Ages. p 196.3.

As the father pressed through the crowd,

“his faith faltered when he saw **only a plainly dressed man, dusty and worn** with travel. **He doubted** that this Person **could do what he had come to ask of Him**...But **already his sorrow was known** to Jesus. Before the officer had left his home, **the Savior had beheld his affliction.**”¹⁶⁶

Doubt too often has a selfish root and faith is not based on sight. To hesitate with faith is to jeopardize the validity of the request. Such doubt blocks faith which could, in this case, have blocked his son’s healing.

The father had put conditions on believing in Jesus

Jesus knew,

“that the father had, in his own mind, **made conditions concerning his belief in Jesus. Unless his petition should be granted, he would not receive Him as the Messiah.**”¹⁶⁷ (to him),

Notwithstanding all the evidence that Jesus was the Christ, the petitioner had **determined to make his belief in Him conditional on the granting of his own request.**¹⁶⁸

The selfish human heart in the face of benevolence

***Tell story of friend needing her flowers watered.

How does the selfish human heart interact with another’s benevolence? It wants to show somehow that **it deserves the kindness. It wants to prove its worthiness.** Rather than having a need and simply asking for help in humility, the selfish human heart wants to turn it into a transaction.

Never put conditions on God.

Why is faith so important to Jesus’s willingness to save and to heal? It was not good for this father to base his faith only on a miracle, as this was a selfish motive. **God is not a wizard with a wand. Nor is He a genie in a bottle. Neither did he need to make a deal with the nobleman.** Jesus knows the human heart (John 2:25). He knows that grace, love, and kindness is not accepted when the **heart is trying to prove its worthiness to the one bestowing the gift.** He knows that only when man acts in

¹⁶⁶ White, Ellen. Desire of Ages. p 197.1

¹⁶⁷ White, Ellen. Desire of Ages. p 198.1

¹⁶⁸ White, Ellen. Desire of Ages. p 198.2

full-hearted faith and humility thankfully acknowledging the grace and righteousness of God unselfishly does it have a life giving power upon Him.

[He] begged him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.
- John 4:47

Jesus contrasts the fathers unbelief with the Samaritans belief

The officer, waiting in an agony of suspense, waited for Jesus response,

"Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." - John 4:48

While they were coming back from Jerusalem **they had stopped in Samaria** where Jesus met the woman at the well and where many Samaritans had believed.

The Saviour contrasted this **questioning unbelief** with the **simple faith** of the Samaritans, who asked for no miracle or sign. **His word, the ever-present evidence of His divinity, had a convincing power** that reached their hearts. **Christ was pained** that His own people, to whom the Sacred Oracles had been committed, **should fail to hear the voice of God speaking to them in His Son.**¹⁶⁹

The father's desperation intensified but he doesn't relent

Like a flash of light, the Saviour's words to the nobleman **laid bare his heart. He saw that his motives in seeking Jesus were selfish. His vacillating faith appeared to him in its true character. In deep distress he realized that his doubt might cost the life of his son. He knew that he was in the presence of One who could read the thoughts, and to whom all things were possible...** His faith took hold upon Christ as did Jacob, when, wrestling with the Angel, he cried, "I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me." Genesis 32:26. Like Jacob he prevailed. **The Saviour cannot withdraw from the soul that clings to Him, pleading its great need.**¹⁷⁰

The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." - John 4:49 RSV

Jesus wanted to give him something greater than only to heal his child

"the nobleman had a degree of faith; for he had come to ask what seemed to him the most precious of all blessings. Jesus had a greater gift to bestow. **He desired, not only to heal the child, but to make the officer and his household sharers in the blessings of salvation,** and to kindle a light in

¹⁶⁹ White, Ellen. Desire of Ages. p 198.2

¹⁷⁰ White, Ellen. Desire of Ages. p 198.5

Capernaum, which was so soon to be the field of His own labors. But **the nobleman must realize his need before he would desire the grace of Christ.** This courtier represented many of his nation. **They were interested in Jesus from selfish motives.** They hoped to receive some special benefit through His power, and they staked their faith on the granting of this temporal favor; but **they were ignorant as to their spiritual disease, and saw not their need of divine grace.**¹⁷¹

The man gained the victory

Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went his way. - John 4:50 RSV

The nobleman left the Saviour's presence with a **peace and joy he had never known before.** Not only did he believe that his son would be restored, but with strong confidence he trusted in Christ as the Redeemer.¹⁷²

The nobleman heads home but not in a rush

As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was living. So he asked them the hour when he began to mend, and they said to him, **"Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever¹⁷³ left him."** The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live"; and he himself believed, and all his household. - John 4:51-53 RSV

The father was so confident that his son had been healed that he did not rush home. He knew that not only his son's life had been miraculously altered but his own life as well.

Cana was not so far from Capernaum but that the officer might have reached his home on the evening after his interview with Jesus; but **he did not hasten on the homeward journey.** It was not until the next morning that he reached Capernaum.

His servants confirm his son revived the very same time as the word of Jesus

Upon arriving home his servants rush out to meet him. He shows no surprise at the news they bring. He only asks what hour the child began to revive. **When their answer is identical to the very moment when the father's faith grasped Jesus' words of**

¹⁷¹ White, Ellen. Desire of Ages. p 198.3

¹⁷² White, Ellen. Desire of Ages. p 198.5

¹⁷³ The mention of fever suggests that it was an infectious illness.

assurance “Your son lives,” all he can do is run to his son, grip him like one raised from the dead, and thank God again and again.¹⁷⁴

The recovery of the son converted the entire family

The nobleman longed to know more of Christ. As he afterward heard His teaching, he and all his household became disciples. **Their affliction was sanctified to the conversion of the entire family.** Tidings of the miracle spread; and in Capernaum, where so many of His mighty works were performed, the way was prepared for Christ's personal ministry. DA 200.2

Jesus wants to give us something greater

We come to Jesus and want to be healed or want a loved one healed. But the Great Physician longs to give us something greater than we ask.

And He delays the answer to our request **that He may show us the evil of our own hearts, and our deep need of His grace. He desires us to renounce the selfishness that leads us to seek Him. Confessing our helplessness and bitter need, we are to trust ourselves wholly to His love.¹⁷⁵**

We must accept the word of Jesus and believe that word first before our prayer can be answered. We are not to use what we see or hear to prove that God hears us.

We are to trust in His promises. When we come to Him in faith, every petition enters the heart of God. **When we have asked for His blessing, we should believe that we receive it, and thank Him that we have received it.** Then we are to go about our duties, assured that the blessing will be realized when we need it most. When we have learned to do this, we shall know that our prayers are answered. God will do for us “exceeding abundantly,” “according to the riches of His glory,” and “the working of His mighty power.” Ephesians 3:20, 16; 1:19.¹⁷⁶

This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee. - John 4:54 RSV

The first sign was turning water into wine.¹⁷⁷

¹⁷⁴ White, Ellen. Desire of Ages. p 199.2-200.1

¹⁷⁵ White, Ellen. Desire of Ages. p 200.3

¹⁷⁶ White, Ellen. Desire of Ages. p 200.4

¹⁷⁷ See John 2:11.

Jesus cured a woman of an issue of blood (Luke 8:43-48)

Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any - Luke 8:43

Broken uterus

The problem was **clearly severe** and perhaps dire considering she had spent all that she had only apparently to be **pronounced incurable**.¹⁷⁸

Not a great look for physicians

Sadly, this passage is **not a great look for physicians**. Certainly, this woman had sought for help far and wide for twelve long years, what else could she do? Unfortunately, the details are not given. But whether it was a matter of paying for **too many doctors** over too long a time, or instances of **expensive treatments**, or whether there were **excessively high prices** charged for services that gave little more than a hope and a prayer, regardless too often medical treatments cost too much and provide inadequate return. If it was a matter of overcharging, that's a problem. **Jesus didn't charge anything**. He is our example. If it was a matter of overpromising and underdelivering thus providing false hope, the disappointment can be bitter. One can only hope the physicians were honest with her and acknowledge their tragic ignorance.

Health workers in great need of the Great Physician

Health workers as much as if not more than anyone else need the help of the Great Physician, especially for those cases that we don't know how to help.

Lesson for healthcare today

¹⁷⁸ Hysterectomy was not available as a surgical procedure until 120 years after the birth of Christ when a vaginal hysterectomy was performed by Soranus of Ephesus. Sadly, patient's almost always died from the procedure until the 1800's when advances such as anaesthesia, antibiotics, antisepsis, blood transfusions or intravenous therapy substantially improved outcomes. As such, the first successful abdominal hysterectomy did not occur until Ellis Burnham performed it in 1853 in Lowell, MA, USA. Sutton C. Hysterectomy: a historical perspective. *Baillieres Clin Obstet Gynaecol.* 1997 Mar;11(1):1-22.

We need to be honest and careful with how much we charge. I don't believe He is requiring health workers to charge nothing, but whenever possible we should seek to lighten the burden of the patient, not worsen it. God will be our judge.¹⁷⁹

The woman seeks Jesus

Despite all the suffering, the woman's hopes revived when she heard about Jesus. But she couldn't get to him. Though very weak from constant bleeding¹⁸⁰,

¹⁷⁹ Healthcare costs are the **number one cause of bankruptcy in America**, contributing to over 65 percent of filings. Himmelstein DU, Lawless RM, Thorne D, Foohey P, Woolhandler S. Medical Bankruptcy: Still Common Despite the Affordable Care Act. Am J Public Health. 2019 Mar;109(3):431-433.

Granted, Americans are sick due mostly to poor health habits and so healthcare costs are expected to be common. But I don't think that completely explains it. For most Americans lifestyle changes would reduce healthcare costs by at least 50 percent and a healthy lifestyle costs very little compared to the cost of healthcare. But I believe healthcare bankruptcies are as common as they are because of the way our healthcare system works. For example, just because a clinician takes health insurance doesn't mean they are not charging high prices, and shouldn't justify their high prices just because they are milking an insurance cash cow. But a lot of clinicians are not involved with the insurance cost loop, especially in the big institutions. So they may not know this.

The problem is that health insurance companies make a healthcare organization more likely to raise their prices because the insurance companies have reacted to the rising costs by negotiating ever steeper discounts. It's a vicious cycle, and often neither the clinician nor the patient are involved, since the fee process is also typically removed from the patient's direct responsibility. This liberates both health insurance companies and healthcare organizations to game the system, which only ultimately hurts the patient, potentially hindering the doctor-patient relationship when financial disagreements or misunderstandings occur, and prevents clinicians from directly compassionately reducing charges in the face of financial hardship. I don't want to suggest that most do this on purpose. They don't. It is just the way the system is built. And in my opinion it is rigged to get worse and worse over time. If it wasn't, bankruptcies would not be so increasingly common. A cash-based system that provides insurance for catastrophic situations with compassionate options for financial hardship would be far saner.

My recommendations for patients:

- Trust God with your health no matter how sick you get. He will help you.
- As far as possible, get as healthy as you can, though not everything is in our control. Generally speaking, those who live healthier spend less on healthcare. God will help you.
- Join a high-deductible or catastrophic based health insurance program or health-sharing option whenever feasible and practical.
- Get a health savings account if your employer offers one, put money in it, and don't get rid of it if you retire or change jobs. Keep saving and keep it for life, so you can at least handle routine healthcare expenses and even a few slightly more expensive incidents.
- Find a clinician who is honorable, fair, and who wishes to simplify the fee process to the greatest degree possible.

¹⁸⁰ **Chronic blood loss** is debilitating and causes a number of physiologic changes depending on the degree . Typical signs and symptoms include anemia, fatigue, pica (pagophagia, ice craving), restless legs syndrome, headache, exercise intolerance, exertional shortness of breath, and, of course, weakness.

she came to the seaside where He was teaching, and tried to press through the crowd, but in vain. Again she followed Him from the house of Levi-Matthew, but was still unable to reach Him. She had begun to despair, when, in making His way through the multitude, He came near where she was.¹⁸¹

[She] came from behind and **touched the border of His garment**. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. - Luke 8:44.

The golden opportunity had come. She was in the **presence of the Great Physician!** But amid the confusion she could not speak to Him, nor catch more than a passing glimpse of His figure. Fearful of losing her one chance of relief, she pressed forward, saying to herself, "**If I may but touch His garment, I shall be whole.**" As He was passing, she reached forward, and succeeded in barely touching the border of His garment. But in that moment she knew that she was healed. **In that one touch was concentrated the faith of her life, and instantly her pain and feebleness gave place to the vigor of perfect health.**¹⁸²

This gives a brief glimpse into how massive the desire Jesus has to heal those who reach out to Him in an act of faith. The miraculous healing reaches her immediately when it is His will and it is done in faith.

And Jesus said, "**Who touched Me?**" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?' " But Jesus said, "**Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.**"

It was odd for him to say this, not only because of the throng that pressed upon Him on all sides, but those who were sick had been clamoring to touch Jesus just to be healed for many days,¹⁸³

Everyone tried to **touch him**, because healing power went out from him, and **he healed everyone**. - Luke 6:19 NLT

Wherever he went--in villages, cities, or the countryside--they brought the sick out to the marketplaces. They begged him to let the sick **touch at least the fringe of his robe**, and **all who touched him were healed**. - Mark 6:56 NLT

What was different about this woman compared to all the others who had touched Him to be healed? There was something special about her gratefulness and her faith that He could not pass by.

¹⁸¹White, Ellen. *Desire of Ages*. p. 343.4

¹⁸² White, Ellen. *Desire of Ages*. p. 343.5

¹⁸³ See also Matthew 14:36; Mark 3:10, 6:56

Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately.

She came forward and “with grateful tears told the story of her suffering”. She told everyone there her story. The gift of the gospel to her was not to be kept silent.¹⁸⁴ From weak and miserable to whole and filled with strength, she had an incredible testimony of faith that Jesus wanted her to share.

It was not through the outward contact with Him, but through the faith which took hold on His divine power, that the cure was wrought.¹⁸⁵

The Saviour could distinguish the touch of faith from the casual contact of the careless throng. **Such trust should not be passed without comment.** He would speak to the humble woman words of comfort that would be to her a wellspring of joy,—words that would be a blessing to His followers to the close of time.¹⁸⁶

And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; **your faith has made you well.** Go in peace." - Luke 8:43-48

The wondering crowd that pressed close about Christ realized no accession of vital power. But when the suffering woman put forth her hand to touch Him, believing that she would be made whole, she felt the healing virtue. So in spiritual things. To talk of religion in a casual way, **to pray without soul hunger and living faith, avails nothing.** A nominal faith in Christ, which accepts Him merely as the Saviour of the world, can never bring healing to the soul. The faith that is unto salvation is not a mere intellectual assent to the truth. He who waits for entire knowledge before he will exercise faith, cannot receive blessing from God. It is not enough to believe about Christ; we must believe in Him. The only faith that will benefit us is that which embraces Him as a personal Saviour; **which appropriates His merits to ourselves.** Many hold faith as an opinion. Saving faith is a transaction by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power.¹⁸⁷

Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven's chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. We are to acknowledge His grace as made known through the holy

¹⁸⁴ “You are My witnesses, says the Lord, that I am God.” Isaiah 43:12.

¹⁸⁵ White, Ellen. Desire of Ages. p 344.3

¹⁸⁶ White, Ellen. Desire of Ages. p 344.2

¹⁸⁷ White, Ellen. Desire of Ages. p 347.1

men of old; but that which will be **most effectual is the testimony of our own experience**. We are witnesses for God as we reveal in ourselves the working of a power that is divine. Every individual has a life distinct from all others, and an experience differing essentially from theirs. **God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him, marked by our own individuality**. These precious acknowledgments to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christ-like life, **have an irresistible power** that works for the salvation of souls.¹⁸⁸

Jesus cured a man of dropsy (Luke 14:1-4)

Jesus had been on an extended veritable crime wave of healing by the time this healing occurs in Luke 14. The most scandalous healings were the healing of the leper, since He touched him¹⁸⁹ and also His healings on Sabbath.

Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath, that **they watched Him closely**. - Luke 14:1.

The Pharisees were on the hunt

The Pharisees were searching for anything they could use **to bring Jesus down**. They were **scrutinizing every word and action**. It's really quite amazing that **Jesus is in the house of one of the leading Pharisees on the Sabbath** after repeated conflicts with the Pharisees.

And behold, there was a certain man before Him who had **dropsy**.¹⁹⁰ And Jesus, answering, spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" But they kept silent. And He took [him] and healed him, and let him go. - Luke 14:2-4

¹⁸⁸White, Ellen. Desire of Ages. 347.3

¹⁸⁹ Matthew 8:2-4, Mark 1:40-45, Luke 5:12-16

¹⁹⁰ Dropsy is not a regularly used medical term today. It refers to widespread swelling throughout the body, now commonly known as edema or anasarca. The causes are many. Some include **high capillary hydraulic pressure states** (heart failure, early cirrhosis, kidney failure, drugs, venous obstruction or insufficiency), **increased capillary permeability states** (burns, trauma, sepsis, allergies, malignant ascites), **lymphatic obstruction** (malignancy, elephantiasis, lymph disruption), **hypoalbuminemic states** (nephrotic syndrome, liver failure, malnutrition).

Dropsy

The word dropsy comes from the word hydropsy coming from two roots, **hydro**, which is **water**, and, **pis**, which is **disease**. So in brief dropsy is a **water disease**.¹⁹¹ This man's illness **may have been quite severe**. Not only was at least much of his body affected, this was one of Jesus later healings now years into His public ministry, suggesting that perhaps **his disability had kept him from seeking out Jesus** earlier, though we don't know.

Principle of truth more important than the traditions of men

Jesus had no fear of men. The principle of truth was more important than the traditions of men.

Why did Jesus' healing on the Sabbath aggravate the Pharisees so much?

1. They **viewed His healing miracles as work** and thereby **illegal on the Sabbath**.
2. His healing demonstrated His power, which **produced fear** that they might lose theirs.
3. They were **jealous of all the attention** Jesus was getting.
4. Jesus exposed their **moral superiority as vile**. They acted so pure and yet based on their reactions to Jesus' healing miracles, **they were unmoved by the suffering** of those around them.¹⁹²

Jesus **confronted their stubborn belief** that His healing miracles were breaking the Sabbath,

Then He answered them, saying, "Which of you, having a **donkey or an ox** that has **fallen into a pit**, will not immediately **pull him out** on the **Sabbath day**?"
And they could not answer Him regarding these things. - Luke 14:1-6 NKJV

The law positively commands us **not to neglect helping a stray animal** or **animal that is suffering**, even if it is our enemy,

"If you meet your **enemy's ox or his donkey** going astray, **you shall bring it back to him**. If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying down under its burden, you shall refrain from leaving him with it; you shall rescue it with him. - Exodus 23:4-5 ESV

¹⁹¹ Excerpt from "The Surgery of Theodoric, vol. 2, books 3 and 4, translated by E. Campbell, M.D. and J. Colton, M.A. Dropsy. JAMA. April 23, 1960. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/328436>

¹⁹² See Matthew 23

Jesus's seven Sabbath healings led directly to persecution

The gospels record **seven healings by Jesus on the Sabbath**. Here they are in chronological order:

1. Jesus heals the man with an evil spirit (Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-36)
2. Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14-15; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39)
3. Jesus heals the paralytic man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5)
4. Jesus restores man born blind (John 9:1-12)
5. Jesus restores a man's withered hand (Matthew 12:9-13; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11)
6. Jesus heals a crippled woman (Luke 13:10-17)
7. Christ heals the man with dropsy (Luke 14:1-6)

Jesus's Sabbath healings led the Pharisees to **persecute not only Him but also others who defended him**.

First two Sabbath healings

The **first two miraculous healings** of Jesus on the Sabbath had no overt persecution, though His fame spread rapidly (Mark 1:28).

Pool of Bethesda Sabbath healing

When Jesus healed the **man with an infirmity at the pool of Bethesda** on the Sabbath (John 5:1-16), Jesus was brought before the Sanhedrin and interrogated, for which He made a thorough defense (John 5:17-47). John then tells us that **one of the main reasons Jesus was being persecuted** was because He was **healing on the Sabbath**, which they felt He was breaking (John 5:18),

And **this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus**, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. - John 5:16 ESV

Jews were not just harrasing Jesus, John then says that **they specifically wanted to kill Him** because they felt He was breaking the Sabbath (John 5:18), as we also discussed during session one.

Withered hand Sabbath healing

When Jesus healed the man with a **withered hand on the Sabbath** (Matt 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11) in the synagogue, he debated with the Pharisees repeating the same defense he used in Luke 14 which they had no answer to.¹⁹³

(Then) “the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.”
- Matthew 12:14 ESV.

Bent over woman healed on the Sabbath

When Jesus healed a **bent over woman** while He was teaching in the synagogue on the Sabbath (Luke 13:10-17), He was **publicly rebuked** by the ruler of the synagogue. He then made a public defense, to which the ruler apparently had no answer. The story ended as follows,

As he said these things, **all his adversaries were put to shame**, and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him. - Luke 13:17
ESV

Healing is part of the purpose of the Sabbath

Such an interaction no doubt inflamed the relationship, **but Jesus was not going to back down on the matter**. Healing suffering people on the Sabbath was not against God’s law. In fact, healing on the Sabbath was in harmony with purpose of the Sabbath.¹⁹⁴

Man born blind healed on the Sabbath

When Jesus healed the **man born blind** on the Sabbath, some of the Pharisees again made the claim that He broke the Sabbath and thus could not be from God (John 9:16). The Pharisees then proceeded to interrogate both the healed man and his parents. The healed man stood up for Jesus and rebuked the Pharisees. In response the Pharisees excommunicated him from the synagogue (John 9:1-41) as we discussed during session three.

¹⁹³ Jesus’ defense when healing the man with the withered hand was to ask them if they had a sheep which fell into a pit on the Sabbath if they would pull it out? This is very similar to the defense in Luke 14. They were trapped because if they said no, they would be breaking God’s law, as Jesus would tell them that the law commands them to help the animal if it is suffering (Exodus 23:4-5). If they said yes, then He would say, then why do you have a problem with healing a man on the Sabbath.

¹⁹⁴ One of the purposes of the Sabbath was rest in order to physically restore the body. The law of God specifically describes it in terms of physical rest, both as a general statement in the law itself (Exodus 31:15, 35:2; Leviticus 23:3; Deuteronomy 5:14), and in the New Testament (Hebrews 4:9). Isaiah 58 connects working to restore mental and physical suffering with the Sabbath as discussed already.

Man with dropsy healed

The healing of the man with dropsy is the **last of the seven healing miracles** recorded to have been **done by Jesus on the Sabbath**. Seven symbolizes completeness. To the bitter end most of the Pharisees remained steadfast in their unbelief and resistance against Jesus. Their disagreement with healing on the Sabbath remained among their greatest points of contention.