



SUNDAY CLASS

10/19/08

Key Verses: Matthew 12: 1-13

“In this chapter, we have,

I. Christ's clearing of the law of the fourth commandment concerning the sabbath-day, and vindicating it from some superstitious notions advanced by the Jewish teachers; showing that works of necessity and mercy are to be done on that day (v. 1-13).

II. The prudence, humility, and self-denial of our Lord Jesus in working his miracles (v. 14-21).

III. Christ's answer to the blasphemous cavils and calumnies of the scribes and Pharisees, who imputed his casting out devils to a compact with the devil (v. 22-37).

IV. Christ's reply to a tempting demand of the scribes and Pharisees, challenging him to show them a sign from heaven (v. 38-45).

V. Christ's judgment about his kindred and relations (v. 46-50).”

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 12:1 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

Lord of the Sabbath

1 At that time Jesus passed through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick and eat some heads of grain.

****Note, God has many ways of bringing suitable provision to his people when they need it, and will take particular care of them when they are going to the synagogue, as of old for them that went up to Jerusalem to worship (Ps. 84:6, 7), for whose use the rain filled the pools: while we are in the way of duty, Jehovah-jireh, let God alone to provide for us.*

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Mark 2:23-28 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

Lord of the Sabbath

23 On the Sabbath He was going through the grainfields, and His disciples began to make their way picking some heads of grain.*24* The Pharisees said to Him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?"

25 He said to them, "Have you never read what David and those who were with him did when he was in need and hungry;*26* how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest and ate the sacred bread—which

is not lawful for anyone to eat except the priests—and also gave some to his companions?"²⁷ Then He told them, "The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath."²⁸ Therefore the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

Luke 6:1-5 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

Lord of the Sabbath

¹ On a Sabbath, He passed through the grainfields. His disciples were picking heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands, and eating them.² But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?"

³ Jesus answered them, "Haven't you read what David and those who were with him did when he was hungry—⁴ how he entered the house of God, and took and ate the sacred bread, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat? He even gave some to those who were with him."⁵ Then He told them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Matthew 10:1 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

Commissioning the Twelve

¹ Summoning His 12 disciples, He gave them authority over unclean spirits, to drive them out and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matthew 26:56 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

⁵⁶ But all this has happened so that the prophetic Scriptures would be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted Him and ran away.

Mark 3:7 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

Ministering to the Multitude

⁷ Jesus departed with His disciples to the sea, and a great multitude followed from Galilee, Judea,

Mark 16:20 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the accompanying signs.

Luke 6:13 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

¹³ When daylight came, He summoned His disciples, and He chose 12 of them; He also named them apostles:

John 12:16 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

16 His disciples did not understand these things at first. However, when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

Matthew 12:2 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

2 *But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"*

****Note, it is common for men of corrupt minds, by their zeal in rituals, and the external services of religion, to think to atone for the looseness of their morals.*

But they are cursed who *add to*, as well as they who *take from*, the words of this book, Rev. 22:16, 19; Prov. 30:6. Now that which our Lord Jesus here lays down is, **that the works of necessity and mercy are lawful on the sabbath day**, which the Jews in many instances were taught to make a scruple of. Christ's industrious explanation of the fourth commandment, intimates its perpetual obligation to the religious observation of *one day in seven*, as a *holy sabbath*. **He would not expound a law that was immediately to expire, but doubtless intended hereby to settle a point which would be of use to his church in all ages; and so it is to teach us, that our Christian sabbath, though under the direction of the fourth commandment, is not under the injunctions of the Jewish elders.** It is usual to settle the meaning of a law by judgments given upon cases that happen in fact, and in like manner is the meaning of this law settled."

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 12:10 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

10 There He saw a man who had a paralyzed hand. And in order to accuse Him they asked Him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"

Luke 13:14 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

14 But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, responded by telling the crowd, "There are six days when work should be done; therefore come on those days and be healed and not on the Sabbath day."

Luke 14:3 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

3 In response, Jesus asked the law experts and the Pharisees, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?"

John 5:10 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

10 so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "This is the Sabbath! It's illegal for you to pick up your bedroll."

John 7:23 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

23 If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses won't be broken, are you angry at Me because I made a man entirely well on the Sabbath?

John 9:16 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

16 Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He doesn't keep the Sabbath!" But others were saying, "How can a sinful man perform such signs?" And there was a division among them.

Matthew 12:3 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

3 He said to them, "Haven't you read what David did when he and those who were with him were hungry—

Matthew 12:4 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

4 how he entered the house of God, and they ate the sacred bread, which is not lawful for him or for those with him to eat, but only for the priests?

Exodus 25:30 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

30 Put the bread of the Presence on the table before Me at all times.

Leviticus 24:5-9 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

5 "Take fine flour and bake it into 12 loaves; each loaf is to be made with four quarts. 6 Arrange them in two rows, six to a row, on the pure [gold] table before the LORD. 7 Place pure frankincense near each row, so that it may serve as a memorial portion for the bread and a fire offering to the LORD. 8 The bread is to be set out before the LORD every Sabbath day as a perpetual covenant obligation on the part of the Israelites. 9 It belongs to Aaron and his sons, who are to eat it in a holy place, for it is the holiest portion for him from the fire offerings to the LORD; this is a permanent rule."

1 Samuel 21:1-6 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

David Flees to Nob

1 David went to Ahimelech the priest at Nob. Ahimelech was afraid to meet David, so he said to him, "Why are you alone and no one is with you?"

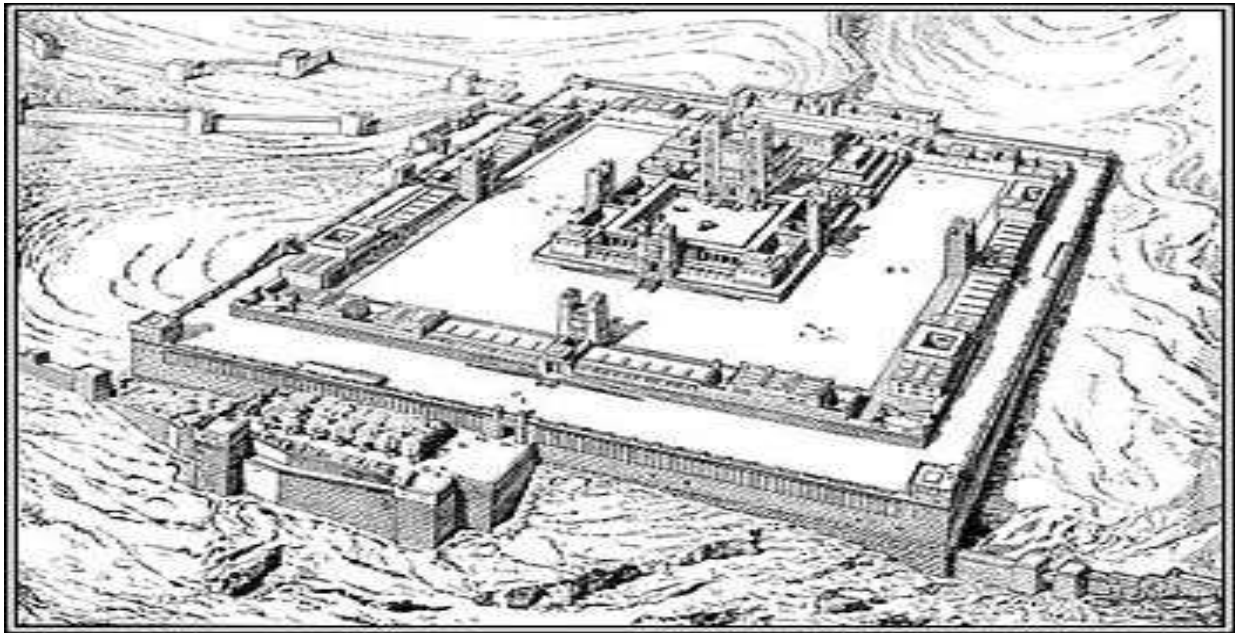
2 David answered Ahimelech the priest, "The king gave me a mission, but he told me, 'Don't let anyone know anything about the mission I'm sending you on or what I have ordered you [to do].' I have stationed [my] young men at a certain place. 3 Now what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread or whatever can be found."

4 The priest told him, "There is no ordinary bread on hand. However, there is consecrated bread, but the young men may eat it only if they have kept themselves from women."

5 David answered him, "I swear that women are being kept from us, as always when I go out [to battle]. The young men's bodies are consecrated even on an ordinary mission, so of course their bodies are consecrated today." 6 So the priest gave him the consecrated [bread], for there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the LORD. When the bread was removed, it had been replaced with warm bread.

Matthew 12:5 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

5 *Or haven't you read in the Law that on Sabbath days the priests in the temple violate the Sabbath and are innocent?*



A drawing of [Ezekiel's Visionary Temple](#) from the Book of Ezekiel 40-47

Numbers 28:9-10 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

Sabbath Offerings

9 "On the Sabbath day [present] two unblemished year-old male lambs, four quarts of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering, and its drink offering. 10 It is the burnt offering for every Sabbath, in addition to the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.

1 Chronicles 9:32 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

32 Some of the Kohathites' relatives were responsible for preparing the rows of the bread [of the Presence] every Sabbath.

John 7:22-23 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

22 "Consider this: Moses has given you circumcision—not that it comes from Moses but from the fathers—and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. 23 If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses won't be broken, are you angry at Me because I made a man entirely well on the Sabbath?

Matthew 12:6 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

6 But I tell you that something greater than the temple is here!

2 Chronicles 6:18 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

18 But will God indeed live on earth with man?

Even heaven, the highest heaven, cannot contain You, much less this temple I have built.

Malachi 3:1 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

1 "See, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. Then the Lord you seek will suddenly come to His temple, the Messenger of the covenant you desire—see, He is coming," says the LORD of Hosts.

Matthew 12:41-42 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

41 The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at Jonah's proclamation; and look—something greater than Jonah is here!*42* The queen of the south will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and look—something greater than Solomon is here!

Matthew 12:7 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

7 If you had known what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the innocent.

***Note,

First, Ignorance is the cause of our rash and uncharitable censures of our brethren.

Secondly, It is not enough for us to know the scriptures, but we must labor to know the meaning of them. Let him that readeth understand.

Thirdly, Ignorance of the meaning of the scripture is especially shameful in those who take upon them to teach others."

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Hosea 6:6 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

6 For I desire loyalty and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Micah 6:8 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

8 He has told you men what is good
and what it is the LORD requires of you:

Only to act justly,
to love faithfulness,
and to walk humbly with your God.

Matthew 9:13 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

13 Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice. For I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 12:8 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

8 *For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."*

Matthew 8:20 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

20 Jesus told him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head."

Matthew 9:6 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

6 But so you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—then He told the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your stretcher, and go home."

Matthew 12:32 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

32 Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the one to come.

Matthew 12:40 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

40 For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.

Matthew 12:9 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

9 *Moving on from there, He entered their synagogue.*

***Note,

First, We must take heed lest any thing that occurs in our way to holy ordinances unfit us for, or divert us from, our due attendance on them. Let us proceed in the way of our duty, notwithstanding the artifices of Satan, who endeavors, by the perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and many other ways, to ruffle and discompose us.

Secondly, We must not, for the sake of private feuds and personal piques, draw back from public worship. Though the Pharisees had thus maliciously caviled at Christ, yet he went into their synagogue. Satan gains this point, if, by sowing discord among brethren, he prevail to drive them, or any of them, from the synagogue, and the communion of the faithful."

Mark 3:1-6 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

The Man with the Paralyzed Hand

1 Now He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a paralyzed hand. 2 In order to accuse Him, they were watching Him closely to see whether He would heal him on the Sabbath. 3 He told the man with the paralyzed hand, "Stand before us." 4 Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. 5 After looking around at them with anger and sorrow at the hardness of their hearts, He told the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out, and his hand was restored. 6 Immediately the Pharisees went out and started plotting with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.

Luke 6:6-11 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

The Man with the Paralyzed Hand

6 On another Sabbath He entered the synagogue and was teaching. A man was there whose right hand was paralyzed. 7 The scribes and Pharisees were watching Him closely, to see if He would heal on the Sabbath, so that they could find a charge against Him. 8 But He knew their thoughts and told the man with the paralyzed hand, "Get up and stand here." So he got up and stood there. 9 Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you: is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?" 10 After looking around at them all, He told him, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was restored. 11 They, however, were filled with rage and started discussing with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Matthew 12:10 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

10 There He saw a man who had a paralyzed hand. And in order to accuse Him they asked Him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"

"The affliction that this poor man was in; his hand was withered so that he was utterly disabled to get his living by working with his hands. St. Jerome says, that the gospel of Matthew in Hebrew, used by the Nazarenes and Ebionites, adds this circumstance to this story of the man with the withered hand, that he was Caementarius—a bricklayer, and applied himself to Christ thus; "Lord, I am a bricklayer, and have got my living by my labor (manibus victum quaeritans); I beseech thee, O Jesus, restore me the use of my hand, that I may not be obliged to beg my bread" (ne turpiter mendicem cibos). Hieron. in loc. This poor man was in the synagogue."

Matthew 12:11 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

11 But He said to them, "What man among you, if he had a sheep that fell into a pit on the Sabbath, wouldn't take hold of it and lift it out?"

"Christ's answer to this question, by way of appeal to themselves, and their own opinion and practice, v. 11, 12. In case a sheep (though but one, of which the loss would not be very great) should fall into a pit on the sabbath day, would they not lift it out? No doubt they might do it, the fourth commandment allows it; they must do it, for a

merciful man regardeth the life of his beast, and for their parts they would do it, rather than lose a sheep; does Christ take care for sheep? Yes, he does; he preserves and provides for both man and beast. But here he says it for our sakes (1 Co. 9:9, 10), and hence argues, How much then is a man better than a sheep? Sheep are not only harmless but useful creatures, and are prized and tended accordingly; yet a man is here preferred far before them.

Note, Man, in respect of his being, is a great deal better, and more valuable, than the best of the brute creatures: man is a reasonable creature, capable of knowing, loving, and glorifying God, and therefore is better than a sheep.

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Exodus 23:4-5 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

4 "If you come across your enemy's stray ox or donkey, you must return it to him.

5 "If you see the donkey of someone who hates you lying [helpless] under its load, and you want to refrain from helping it, you must help with it.

Deuteronomy 22:4 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

4 If you see your brother's donkey or ox fallen down on the road, you must not ignore it; you must help him lift it up.

Luke 14:5 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

5 And to them, He said, "Which of you whose son or ox falls into a well, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?"

Matthew 12:12 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

12 *A man is worth far more than a sheep, so it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."*

Matthew 6:26 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

26 Look at the birds of the sky: they don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they?

Matthew 10:31 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

31 Don't be afraid therefore; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Matthew 12:13 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

13 *Then He told the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out, and it was restored, as good as the other.*

"Now the manner of the cure is observable; he said to the man, "Stretch forth thy hand, exert thyself as well as thou canst;" and he did so, and it was restored whole.

This, as other cures Christ wrought, had a spiritual significance.

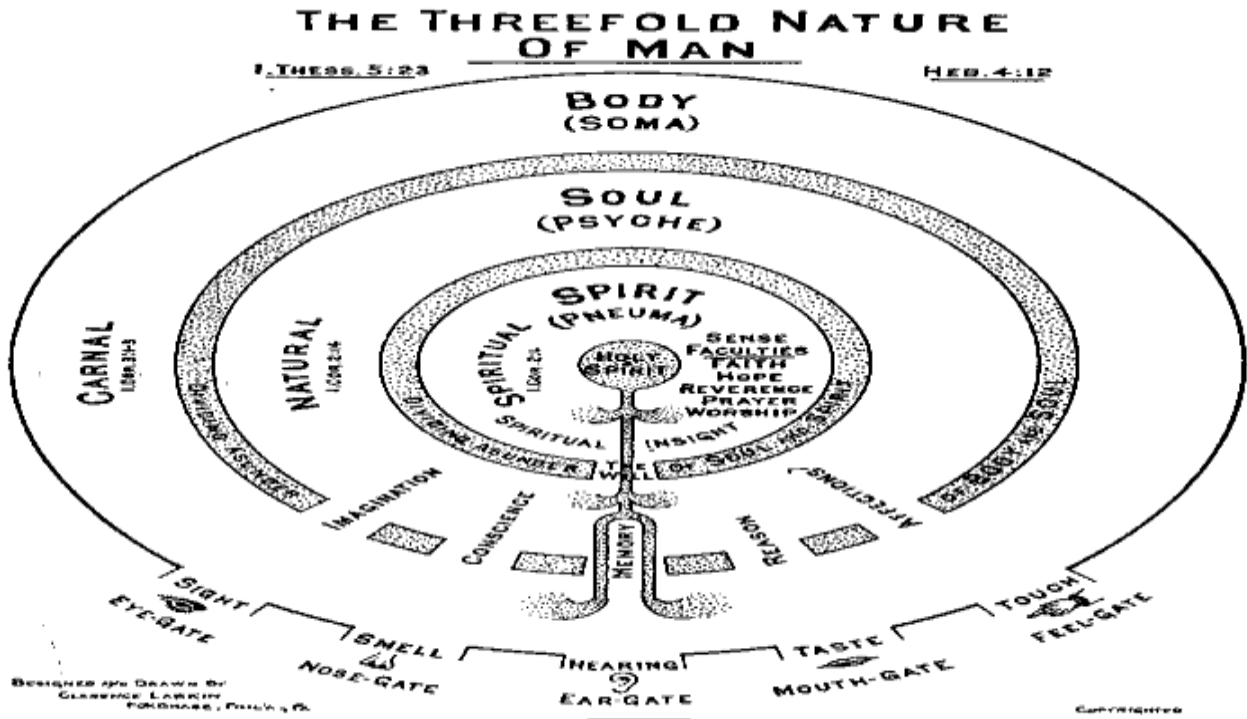
(1.) By nature our hands are withered, we are utterly unable of ourselves to doing any thing that is good.

(2.) It is Christ only, by the power of his grace, that cures us; he heals the withered hand by putting life into the dead soul, works in us both to will and to do.

(3.) In order to our cure, he commands us to stretch forth our hands, to improve our natural powers, and do as well as we can; to stretch them out in prayer to God, to stretch them out to lay hold on Christ by faith, to stretch them out in holy endeavors.

Now this man could not stretch forth his withered hand of himself, any more than the impotent man could arise and carry his bed, or Lazarus come forth out of his grave; yet Christ bid him do it. God's commands to us to do the duty which of ourselves we are not able to do are no more absurd or unjust, than this command to the man with the withered hand, to stretch it forth; for with the command, there is a promise of grace which is given by the word. Turn ye at my reproof, and I will pour out my Spirit, Prov. 1:23. Those who perish are as inexcusable as this man would have been, if he had not attempted to stretch forth his hand, and so had not been healed. But those who are saved have no more to boast of than this man had of contributing to his own cure, by stretching forth his hand, but are as much indebted to the power and grace of Christ as he was."

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE



***Clarence Larkin's Bible Charts – Dispensational Truth

1 Kings 13:4 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

4 When the king heard the word that the man of God had cried out against the altar at Bethel, Jeroboam stretched out his hand from the altar and said, "Arrest him!" But the hand he stretched out against him withered, and he could not pull it back to himself.

Matthew 8:3 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

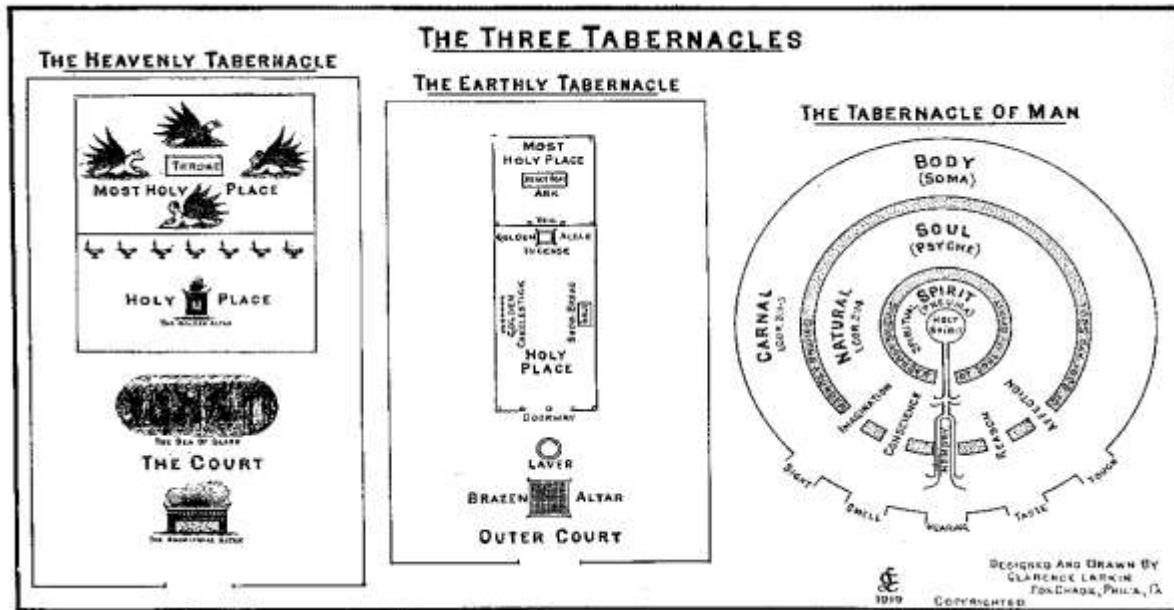
3 Reaching out His hand He touched him, saying, "I am willing; be made clean." Immediately his disease was healed.

Acts 28:8 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

8 It happened that Publius' father was in bed suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went to him, and praying and laying his hands on him, he healed him.

***Note, There are more ways of doing well upon sabbath days, than by the duties of God's immediate worship; attending the sick, relieving the poor, helping those who are fallen into sudden distress, and call for speedy relief; this is doing good: and this must be done from a principle of love and charity, with humility and self-denial, and a heavenly frame of spirit, and this is doing well, and it shall be accepted, Gen. 4:7.

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE



***Clarence Larkin's Bible Charts – Dispensational Truth

***Note, Duty is not to be left undone, nor opportunities of doing good neglected, for fear of giving offence.

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

So Perform Your Duties Out of Love!