

“Revolutionary Love”

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Illustration: [Davon Huss](http://www.sermoncentral.com) –www.sermoncentral.com accessed 4/27/07

An official of a Mission Board, who knew that it takes more than desire to make a missionary, was appointed to examine a candidate. He told the young man to come to his house at 6 in the morning. The young man went at 6 in the morning to be examined, and the examiner kept him sitting in the room until ten. Then he went down to him and said abruptly, “Can you spell? Can you spell God?” “Yes, sir,” came the answer calmly. “Can you write your name? Do you know what your name is?” “Yes, sir,” again he replied. He put him through a series of questions of that kind, and then went to the Missionary Board and said, “He will do. I tried his patience for four hours, and he did not break down: I then insulted him, and he did not lose his temper. He will do.” That is the way to prove Christianity. If a man answers all abuses with patience, a fortitude, a gentleness that cannot be violated, depend upon it, Christ’s love has conquered his heart, and the Christianity that has made him what he is vindicated by the very quality of his character. Such a Christian causes men to say, “Well, after all, you’ve got to say something for a religion that produces a man like that.”

Mark 2:23-3:6 NIV

One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. [24] The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

[25] He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? [26] In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions."

[27] Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. [28] So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

[3:1] Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. [2] Some of them were

looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. [3] Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone."

[4] Then Jesus asked them, **"Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent.**

[5] He looked around at them in *anger* and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, **"Stretch out your hand."** He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.

1. Jesus put people on higher priority than following "law".

In two different instances here, we see that Christ puts people on higher priority than strictly following the law of the Sabbath.

1. His disciples picked grain and ate it on the Sabbath. It was illegal by Jewish law to do ANY work on the Sabbath. Picking the grain was seen as work, and they Pharisees in their strict following of the law would rather see the disciples go hungry, than "break the law" of Sabbath by picking grain. Jesus used the example of King David and his men who ate the consecrated bread which was legal only for Priests to eat. Jesus claimed that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. In other words... the "Law" wasn't as important as the people. The spirit of the law, the heart of the law is LOVE, not regulation. When we show love, we are obeying the Law of God.
2. Jesus goes into the Synagogue (the Jewish place of worship) on the Sabbath day. The Jewish leaders are starting to realize the way Jesus works, and they decide to test Him, because they're looking for a reason to accuse Him... so they can get rid of Him.

They asked Him if it is legal to heal on the Sabbath, and Jesus replies with a brilliant question. Vs 4 **"Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?"** And of course they refused to answer. The fools were blinded by their pride. Jesus was angry with them because they were stubborn and they lacked love. They didn't care about the man with the shriveled hand... all they cared about was being "right" by following their law, and they cared about "getting Jesus", because He made them mad. Jesus proved that **people mattered more than them "being right" by healing the man.**

What an awesome miracle!!! Don't you think?!? A man with a shriveled hand is healed. Now he can do many things he could never do before, thanks to Jesus healing him.

Q: But do you think that the Pharisees saw the miracle, and praised God?

Mark 3:6 Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

No... they missed out on the miracle, because all they could think about was themselves.

2. Proud People will always miss the miracle of love.

When Jesus did great acts of love, right in front of the Pharisees' eyes, they couldn't "see it" or appreciate it. People that are full of pride and self-righteousness will never see the miracles of God.

3. Seeing is NOT always believing. Believing comes BEFORE seeing spiritual things. Even when the Pharisees "saw" the

miracle physically, they couldn't "see" it in the spirit. Even after they "saw" it, they couldn't rejoice about it... they were stuck in their own pride, and missed the miracle. Unless we believe in God, we shouldn't expect to see His power at work in our lives.

Ask yourself these things:

1. Do I , _____(your name), put other people first, or do I look out for myself, like the Pharisees?
2. Do I , _____, look for opportunities to show love to other people, or do I often miss the chance to do that?
3. Do I , _____, believe that God will do awesome miracles in my life, and for others?

If you can't say yes to all of those things... then you need to have a revolution of love in your heart. Our hearts are small, and limited... we don't always love like we should. God's heart is big and unlimited. He is full of love for all people. What we need is for Him to give us a "heart transplant" and give us some of His revolutionary love in our hearts.

Prayer: God, I don't love the way Jesus did, but I want to. I don't have enough love in my heart, but You do. Give me your love for others. Give me a "heart transplant". Take my cold heart and give me your heart of love for other people. In Jesus name, Amen.