

Mark 3:1-6

1 Another time Jesus 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. 6 Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

"Jesus' disciples are those who have chosen to be with him to learn to be like him. All they have necessarily realized at the outset of their apprenticeship to him is, *Jesus is right*. He is the greatest and best. Of this, they are sure. That initial faith is God's gift of grace to them."

- Dallas Willard

➤ **Name your place of powerlessness**

"For most of my life I believed, without ever reflecting on it much, that I could mostly do what needs to be done. I can find and keep a good job. I can grow an organization. I can raise a family. I can be a good dad. And I've come to realize I can't...I can't heal those closest to me. I can't fix my heart. I can't make my sadness go away. I can't fix my shame or my envy or my anger. I can't stop my awful dread of what might happen in the future...I can't keep from waking up at 3:00am, staring at the ceiling." - John Ortberg

My anxieties, my fears, my insecurities, my addictions, my bitterness, my grief, my exhaustion.

"I admit that, despite all appearances, I am not fine."

➤ **Ask for a moment of clarity**

The prodigal son in Luke 15...

"When he came to his senses..." - Luke 15:17

"Everyone is screwed up, broken, clingy, and scared, even the people who seem to have it more or less together. They are much more like you than you would believe. So try not to compare your insides to their outsides." - Anne Lamott

➤ **Embrace your inadequacy**

Moses - *"Why would Pharaoh listen to me? I am not eloquent...I am slow of speech."* (Exodus 4)

Isaiah - *"Woe to me!...I am a man of unclean lips"* (Isaiah 6)

Peter - *"Go away from me Lord. I am a sinful man."* (Luke 5)

Paul - 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

7...in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Inadequacy drives us to Jesus in a way that *adequacy* never will.

The fellowship of the withered hand is a place where it is safe to be inadequate.



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