

Grace to you and peace ... from Jesus Christ, ... who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.

⁹ Now when [Jesus] had departed from there, He went into their synagogue. ¹⁰ And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" – that they might accuse Him. ¹¹ Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? ¹² Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath. ¹³ Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other. ¹⁴ Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him. ¹⁵ But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. ¹⁶ Yet He warned them not to make Him known, ¹⁷ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ¹⁸ "Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He will declare justice to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ He will not quarrel nor cry out, nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. ²⁰ A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench, till He sends forth justice to victory; ²¹ and in His name Gentiles will trust."

Text: Matthew 12:9-21 A 9/10/17 Numbers 21:4-9 Romans 7:14-25 Ps. 36 Resp. Ps.: 115
Hymns: 744, 357, 779, 778

JESUS CAME TO SAVE US FROM OUR SINS

Dear fellow believers in Christ,

Jesus says about the Judgment Day, "The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Jesus then says, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it" (Mt. 13:41-46).

One Sabbath day Jesus went into a synagogue, where there was a man with a withered hand. The Pharisees asked Jesus if it was lawful for Him to heal on the Sabbath, we're told, "that they might accuse Him." The Old Testament law said it was wrong to work on the Sabbath. Jesus healed many people on the Sabbath. The Pharisees thought that was doing work on the Sabbath, so they thought Jesus was breaking God's law every time He healed on the Sabbath. To

knowingly, willingly, repeatedly, unrepentantly, do what God commands us not to do is terribly wrong. The Pharisees thought that Jesus was sinning terribly by healing on the Sabbath.

Jesus asked them, *“What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out?”* Jesus reminded the Pharisees that they rescued sheep that fell into a pit on a Sabbath day. They understood that that was the right thing to do. Jesus then told them, *“Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”* Since it was right to rescue sheep on the Sabbath day, and a human being is so very much more important than a sheep, then it was right for Jesus to heal **people** on the Sabbath – people who were in such great need of Jesus’ miraculous healing. Jesus then healed the man’s deformed hand so he had two normal hands. What a **wonderful** blessing Jesus gave that man!

In his account of the incident Luke informs us that the Pharisees *“were filled with rage”* at Jesus for healing the man (6:11). They left the synagogue and plotted together how to kill Jesus. Most of the Pharisees didn’t believe that Jesus was the promised Messiah. They thought He was a blasphemer for saying He is the Son of God. No matter what Jesus said or did, they hated Him and wanted Him dead.

Jesus knew what the Pharisees were planning to do to Him. It wasn’t His time to die yet, so He moved on to another place. We’re told that *“great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. Yet He warned them not to make Him known.”* Why not? Because, as always happened, they would have told people all about Jesus’ miracles. And, as also always happened, *“multitudes”* of other people would come to Jesus to heal their bodies. Jesus healed everyone who came to Him for healing. But the **most** important reason Jesus came was to heal our souls.

Matthew says in our text that this was in fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy in which God the Father said about Jesus: *“Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen.”* Twice during Jesus’ earthly ministry His Father said about Him, *“This is My beloved Son”* (Mt. 3:17; 17:5). God the Father sent His Son, Jesus, to save us all from our sins. When His Father said about Jesus, *“This is My beloved Son,”* He added, *“in whom I am well pleased.”* Jesus said, *“I have come down from heaven ... to do ... the will of Him who sent Me”* (Jn. 6:38). And what was the Father’s will for Jesus? *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved”* (Jn. 3:16-17). God the Father was *“well pleased”* with everything Jesus did to save us.

His Father said about Him, *“I will put My Spirit upon Him.”* At Jesus’ baptism the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove and landed on Him (Mt. 3:16). God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit all work together to save us. God the Father sent Jesus to be our Savior. God

the Son carried out His Father's plan for our salvation. And God the Holy Spirit works faith in our heart so we believe in Jesus and are saved.

The Father says about Jesus, *"He will declare justice to the Gentiles. ... and in His name Gentiles will trust."* Jesus warned people that in God's justice we all deserve to be punished for our sins in hell. But Jesus satisfied His Father's justice by offering His own life for our sins on the cross. We're told that Jesus will carry out His Father's will *"till He sends forth justice to victory."* On the cross Jesus declared, *"It is finished!"* (Jn. 19:30). Jesus won the victory over sin, death, and hell. He freed us from eternal punishment in hell, and has given us eternal life in heaven instead. Jesus *"[declares]"* to us, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life"* (Jn. 6:47).

We're told that Jesus *"will not quarrel nor cry out, nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets."* Jesus was no legalistic fire and brimstone, hell and damnation preacher who tries to scare people into 'gettin' right with God.' At times Jesus had harsh words for certain people. But His purpose was always to turn them away from their sin and error, and turn them to Himself in faith. Jesus was no self-promoting preacher who, instead of feeding the flock with the Bread of Life, only wants to fleece the flock. Jesus said, *"The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost"* (Lk. 19:10).

We're told, *"A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench."* Jesus says, *"The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out"* (Jn. 6:37b). When we're troubled by our sinfulness, and come to Jesus in repentance, He assures us, *"Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven"* (Mt. 9:2). And when our faith feels as weak as a reed that's almost broken and as a small flame that has almost gone out, and we come to Jesus, He comforts us and reassures us and makes our faith strong.

Our sermon theme is **JESUS CAME TO SAVE US FROM OUR SINS**. But everyone here already knows that, and believes it. Most of the Pharisees didn't believe it. The majority of people in the world don't believe it, either. Everyone who doesn't believe in Jesus has no forgiveness for his sins, and doesn't have eternal salvation.

Our eternal salvation in Jesus is our one great treasure. Every Sunday we hear that Jesus died for our sins on the cross. We need to hear that message over and over. We are sinners. We sin every day. We need to have God's Word confront us with our sins so that we see our need for Jesus. And we need to have God's Word reassure us that Jesus came to save us from our sins. Thank God that He has given us faith in Jesus. Thank God that by faith in Jesus we are saved. And thank God that by faith in Jesus we are going to heaven. Amen.