

**THE MAN WITH A WITHERED HAND**

**Mark 3:1-6; Matthew 12:9-14; Luke 6:6-11**

**Theme: God's answer to life's needs**

**Episode 5 of 7**

**Part 1: THEY MET THE MASTER SERIES**

**(STORIES OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO MET JESUS)**

**CTTW SHORT DRAMA PROGRAMS W/QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**CHRISTIAN RADIO DRAMA**

**“THE STORY WITHIN”**

**005**



**Writer: Diana C. Derringer**  
**Editor: Dr. Art Criscoe**  
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**Part 1: They Met the Master Series**  
**Episode 5 of 7: The Man with a Withered**  
**Hand**  
**Christ to the World Ministries**

## **DIRECTORIAL INFORMATION**

**CAST OF CHARACTERS:** (note voice quality required)

- **Each voice should be recognizably different from any other character.**
- **Some characters appear in multiple episodes of this series. Use the same voice for the same character.**

**Amon:**                **The man with a withered hand** (voice of a mature man)  
**Mordecai**            **Friend of Amon** (voice of a mature man)  
**Timothy**             **Land owner** (voice of a mature man)  
**Jesus:**              **The promised Messiah** (voice of a mature man)  
**Ezra:**                **Pharisee** (voice of a mature man)  
**Voices:**             **For sound effects** (men, women, and children)

**Notes to all readers:**

- These are radio **dramas**. The actions and emotions are in the words. Remember that the listener will only hear these words once; speak distinctly with appropriate emotion; carefully observe all punctuation (i.e., pause at commas, stop at periods, intensify at exclamation points, and give special emphasis to words in **bold** type).
- Observe all **music** cues (bold/small print) throughout the script.
- Observe **sound effects** directions (bold print) throughout the script.
- Observe all **voice** instructions (bold print) throughout the script.
- When Scripture is used, the print is in *italics*, and it is the NIV (1984). Scripture references are given to aid the translators and should not be read as part of the script.

## **THE MAN WITH A WITHERED HAND**

**Scripture References: Mark 3:1-6; Mt. 12:9-14; Luke 6:6-11**

**(Music: Theme music begins, then gradually fades to underscoring during comments by Program Host. Note to producer: Limit theme music not to exceed 12-14 seconds.)**

### **Program Host**

Welcome to “The Story Within.” Today’s drama tells us about the man with a withered hand, a man who “Met the Master.” It is based on an account in the gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke in the Bible. Throughout Jesus’ earthly ministry, He traveled the countryside teaching, healing, and sharing God’s truth with those He encountered. Many believed and followed Him. Others were curious or desired only what they could receive from Him. Some felt threatened because He upset their traditions. Jesus’ first priority was to follow the will of God wherever that took Him and regardless of whom it disturbed. He focused on people’s needs rather than the status quo.

Jesus had previously upset several religious leaders, who questioned His authority to forgive sin. They accused Him of blasphemy. His healing of a lame man on the Sabbath led to their persecution and plotting to rid themselves of Him. Jesus’ explanation that God, His Father, oversees all creation every day, including the Sabbath, only intensified their efforts against Him. Nothing Jesus said or did

deterred their efforts to kill Him. Nothing they said or did slowed Jesus' determination to follow the leadership of God the Father.

When Jesus entered the temple on another Sabbath day, He met a man with a withered hand. Well aware the leaders watched Him closely, Jesus addressed the crowd. He asked whether people should do good or evil on the Sabbath. No one replied. Jesus then told the man to stretch out his hand, and Jesus healed him. Once again, rather than celebrating miraculous healing, the religious leaders plotted to kill Jesus. Listen now as Amon, the name chosen for the man with the withered hand, tells us his story.

**(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)**

**(Amon – Storyteller)**

I wanted to work. I was able to work. Perhaps not as well as able-bodied men, but I could do most things that needed to be done. Yet, that was not what others expected of me. Instead of giving me a chance to prove myself, they took one look at my shriveled hand and turned away. They wanted workers with both hands healthy and strong. They saw me as worthless and undesirable.

I tried to find employment but usually had to resort to begging in order to survive.

The humiliation of asking for help when I knew I could do better depressed me.

Yet, I saw no way out. I had no hope that life would change.

The only people who seemed to understand were others in my circumstances or those in worse condition. I sometimes felt guilty when I complained. Many of my friends could not see, hear, or walk. They depended on others for so much more than I required. Yet, I still found myself wishing for more, wishing for an opportunity to show people my abilities rather than my disability.

**(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)**

**Mordecai:** Good morning, Amon.

**Amon:** Good morning, Mordecai. How are you?

**Mordecai:** Up and ready to face another day! How about you?

**Amon:** Okay I guess. I just hope I can find a little work today. Have you heard of anyone who needs a good strong worker with just one hand?

**Mordecai:** As a matter of fact, I am on my way to help Timothy move his sheep to the high field. You might come along with me to see if he needs an extra hand for the job. Ha! Did you catch that? An extra hand! Sorry, Amon. I don't mean to offend you. That just slipped out.

**Amon:** **(chuckles)** No offense taken, Mordecai. It is sort of funny, isn't it?

**Mordecai:** I thought so. However, I never want to hurt your feelings.

**Amon:** Don't worry about it, and thanks for the job referral. I think I will tag along to see if Timothy can use that extra hand.

**INSERT:** **(Sound effects: Both men laugh and begin walking.)**

**(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)**

**(Amon continues his story)**

I hoped to reach Timothy before anyone else did. Although the job was temporary, short-term work beats no work at all.

**(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)**

**Mordecai:** Good day, Timothy. You remember my friend Amon, don't you?

**Timothy:** Yes, of course. Good day to you, Amon. What brings you out this way?

**Amon:** Mordecai and I were talking earlier, and he said you plan to move your sheep to the high country. I thought you might need some extra help.

**Timothy:** As a matter of fact, I do. Who did you have in mind for the job?

**Amon:** **(clears throat)** Actually, I was thinking of myself. I am strong as an ox and can do the work of most men and better than some.

**Timothy:** **(hesitant, embarrassed)** Oh, I see. Well, uh, I don't know. With your hand and all, I mean, I really think I might need someone with, you know, two good hands.

**Amon:** Trust me, Timothy, I can do the work, and I will work for half the usual wage until you are comfortable that I can do the job.

**Mordecai:** I have seen Amon work, Timothy. Believe me, he is a hard worker who always does a good job.

**Timothy:** I am sure that is true, but, to be perfectly honest, Amon, I think I had better stick with the men I have used in the past. They already know the route and the sheep.

**Amon:** **(disappointed)** Certainly. No problem. If anything changes, though, let me know. I will be glad to fill in at the last minute, if necessary.

**Timothy:** **(relieved)** Oh, absolutely. Thank you for the offer.

**Amon:** In the meantime, if you hear of anyone else needing a good worker, I would appreciate a referral.

**Timothy:** Sure, Amon. I will do that.

**(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)**

**(Amon continues his story)**

I knew Timothy was glad for me to leave. I also knew he had no intention of telling anyone I was available for work. If people would only give me a chance, I know they would not be disappointed. But that is never going to happen. I am stuck with this withered hand, and that is all people see when they see me. I am more than a bad hand. I am a person just like everyone else, with the same needs, desires, and hurts. I just happen to have this one inconvenience that bothers everyone else much more than it does me.

I guess I had better head for home and get ready to go to the synagogue tomorrow.

I hear a new teacher and healer may be there.

**(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)**

**INSERT: (Sound effects: a crowd walking around the synagogue, talking)**

**Amon:** **(surprised)** Hello, Mordecai. I thought you might still be in the high country.

**Mordecai:** No, once we moved the sheep, the work was complete, so I came back to see if I could help anyone else. Plus, I wanted to meet this new Teacher, Jesus. I have heard a lot of good things about Him.

**Amon:** So have I, about His healing as well as His teaching.

**Mordecai:** I think we may have arrived before He did. **(pause)** Oh, wait, that must be Him coming now.

**INSERT: (Sound effects: greater approaching crowd noise)**

**Amon:** I believe you are right. The Pharisees don't seem too happy to see Him. They are watching Him like a hawk.

**Mordecai:** Especially Ezra. Have you ever seen anyone look so angry?

**Amon:** Not in a long, long time.

**Mordecai:** **(puzzled)** Amon, have you and Jesus met before? He is looking right at you and headed your way.

**Amon:** No. Never. I wonder what He wants.



## **INTERMISSION**

**Program Host:** Thank you for listening to “The Story Within.” Our story will continue in a moment. Amon was a man strong in every way except for a shriveled hand. People would not hire him for work because of his handicap. Amon and his friend Mordecai went to the synagogue on the Sabbath to hear Jesus teach. Jesus came straight to Amon and spoke to him. Listen as the story continues.

**(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)**

**INSERT: (Sound effects: increasing crowd noise that stops in front of Amon)**

**Jesus:** Amon, “*stand up in front of everyone*” (Mark 3:3).

**Mordecai: (whispers)** Go ahead, Amon. Do what He says, and don’t pay any attention to Ezra. He and the other Pharisees may attack whatever Jesus says or does, but you ignore them. You hear me?

**Amon: (whispers)** Yes, Mordecai, I hear you.

**INSERT: (Sound effects: clothes rustle as Amon stands.)**

**Ezra: (angrily)** Jesus, “*Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?*” (Mt. 12:10).

**Jesus:** You tell me, Ezra, “*Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?*” (Mark 3:4).

**Mordecai:** **(whispers to Amon)** Listen to that silence, Amon. They don't know how to answer Jesus, do they? **(pause)** You do whatever He says. You hear me? Whatever Jesus says.

**Jesus:** **(controlled anger and sorrow)** *“If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”* **(pause)** Amon, *“Stretch out your hand”* (Mt. 12:11-13).

**(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)**

**(Amon continues his story)**

I held out my withered hand to Jesus, and He made it as good as the other one in every way. The size was the same. The flexibility the same. The range of motion the same. When I did as Jesus directed, He healed me.

Can you imagine my excitement? I could use both hands. I could find a job. People would no longer focus on what I could not do. Jesus made me whole.

However, my excitement was far from matched by the Pharisees and other religious leaders. They were furious. I learned they watched to see if Jesus would heal on the Sabbath, since He had done so in the past. Their previous confrontation did not alter Jesus' course in the least. He continued to meet people's needs, regardless of the location, day of the week, or the reactions of the high and mighty.

The Pharisees left the synagogue angry and sputtering about how they could ruin Jesus. Not only did they plot among themselves, as they had in the past. This time they joined forces with the Herodians, Herod's followers, of all people. Typically Pharisees wanted nothing to do with the political powers that be. After all, they were the ones who made life miserable for our people. We waited for a Messiah, a Savior, to rescue us from this oppressive governmental control.

Then Jesus appeared, the One many believed to be our Messiah. Instead of celebrating or at least investigating further whether He was the promised One, they rejected Him and did everything in their power to rid themselves of Him. That made no sense.

On second thought, maybe it did make sense to them. Many people expected our Messiah to be a political or military leader who would overthrow the Roman government. Jesus was anything but that. He reached out to everyone regardless of their background. Plus, He taught and lived love and forgiveness for everyone, including our enemies. I admit I find it difficult to understand and live like that. Nevertheless, I believe it to be true and look forward to learning more.

Regardless of what the Pharisees, Herodians, or anyone else does, I know what Jesus has done for me. I have experienced His love, mercy, and healing power. I cannot deny what He has done in my life, and I look forward to all He will do in

the future. I have no idea where that will take me. However, I will follow wherever Jesus leads.

**(Music: Dramatic music swells; then begins reprise of Theme music; softly underscore comments of program host during Our Response to God.)**

## **OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**

### **Program Host**

We all eventually realize something is missing in our lives. Amon lived with a withered hand that made acceptance and employment difficult. It kept him from meeting his full potential. We also fail to meet our full potential in one way or another. Instead of a useless hand, we may find ourselves pursuing useless habits that lead to a dead end. We often try to find that missing something in self-defeating behavior. Even our positive practices fall short.

Intellectual pursuits feed our minds, but they never answer life's most important questions. Friends, romance, and self-improvement support us emotionally, but they fail to provide the ultimate relationship. Exercise and good eating habits build our physical strength, but they cannot promise us eternal life. Philosophical pursuits and religious rituals explore life's meaning, yet only Jesus offers the meaning we seek.

As Amon learned, our greatest needs can be met only through a personal encounter with Jesus. Jesus healed Amon's hand, but, more important, He showed Amon a different way of life.

Jesus' Holy Spirit continues to work in our lives today. He sees our needs and offers the answer to those needs. Sometimes He provides miraculous healing as He did Amon. Other times He provides the strength and comfort to deal with difficult issues. More important, Jesus convicts us of our sins and then offers forgiveness for those sins. We choose. Will we respond like Amon, reaching out to Jesus? Or like the Pharisees, will we reject Jesus' love and forgiveness, clinging to habits and traditions that ultimately fail to meet what we need most?

**Now we come to the time when we can respond to God.**

The Word of God says, "*Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness*" (Heb. 9:22). The story in the Word of God of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son and God's provision of a ram is a picture of God's sacrificial lamb. John the Baptist spoke of Jesus: "*Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*" (John 1:29). Jesus is God's sacrificial lamb offered as a sacrifice for our sins.

Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Jesus died in our place. The apostle Paul wrote, "*that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures*" (1 Cor. 15:3-4). Jesus did not stay in the grave. He rose from the dead and is alive forevermore.

I'm going to pray a brief prayer from my heart to God. Listen to my prayer, and then when I have prayed, I will lead you to pray the same prayer.

**Dear God, Thank You that Jesus died for my sins. Amen.**

Now repeat the prayer aloud after me. We will pray it a portion at a time. Make the prayer your very own to God. Mean it with all your heart as you pray.

**Dear God,** (pause for listener to repeat)

**Thank You that Jesus died for my sins.** (pause for listener to repeat)

**Amen.** (pause for listener to repeat)

Thank you for praying that prayer. In the next program we will learn how to trust Jesus and receive Him into our lives as Savior. The next episode will be a drama about “The Centurion of Capernaum.”

**(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)**

## **Questions and Answers**

The Questions and Answers below are designed to be used following the broadcast of the drama. They are questions a typical listener might have after listening to the drama. The number of questions used will of course depend upon the amount of air time available at the conclusion of the drama. It may not be necessary to use all of the questions provided. Voices used for the questions should include: male and female; young and old; believers and non-believers. The Program Host should give all the answers to the questions.

Try to make both questions and answers conversational in nature.

The questions should be asked in a forthright manner. Persons asking the questions should reflect different attitudes and positions. Most of the questioners should reflect an openness and honest desire for the truth; some should reflect deep concern; some should reflect anxiety; some could reflect sarcasm or unbelief; some could even reflect anger. Occasionally a voice antagonistic to Christ and the Gospel could ask one of the questions.

The Program Host should use warm and friendly language and tone of voice. He should never talk down to a questioner in a demeaning fashion regardless of the question asked. He should never express shock or surprise at the question asked. He should speak in a manner that puts the questioner at ease. Some producers might want to use names. For example, a question might begin with: “My name is \_\_\_\_\_. Could you explain . . .” or “My name is \_\_\_\_\_. Here is my question: . . .” The Program Host could use the person’s name in answering the question. The use of names is at the producer’s option.

The Questions and Answers could begin by the Program Host saying: “Thank you for listening to this drama. Now let us go to some questions that listeners like yourself have about what we have heard.”

1. **Question:** I do not believe anyone can restore a shriveled hand. Is the story true?

**Answer:** Yes, the story is true. Jesus said to the man, “*Stretch out your hand*” (Mark 3:5) and the hand was restored immediately. Jesus has all power.

2. **Question:** It seems to me that Jesus did a lot of healing on the Sabbath. Did He do this deliberately to offend the religious leaders?

**Answer:** Jesus did do a lot of healing on the Sabbath. When He went to the synagogue to worship, there were usually people present with physical needs. Jesus had compassion on them and healed many of them. I do not think He was deliberately provoking the religious leaders; He was responding to human need.

3. **Question:** Did the religious leaders actually want to kill Jesus?

**Answer:** Yes. Their hearts were evil and they would go to any measure to destroy Jesus, including having Him put to death.

4. **Question:** Who were the Herodians?

**Answer:** The Herodians was a party of Jews that courted favor with the Herods who ruled parts of the country. They were more political than

religious, but they strongly opposed Jesus. The Pharisees were willing to join with them in order to put Jesus to death.

**5. Question:** Why are many people today opposed to Jesus?

**Answer:** Many people do oppose Jesus today. The reasons for this are many. Basically, people choose to go their own way rather than God's way. They do not want to surrender their lives to Jesus and follow Him.

**6. Question:** How was Jesus able to continue with His ministry in the midst of strong persecution and opposition from the religious leaders?

**Answer:** Jesus came to the world to die for the sins of all humankind. That was His main purpose in coming. He refused to permit anything to thwart that purpose. Jesus was strong and courageous and refused to let opposition stop Him. He stayed close to God through prayer.

**7. Question:** How can I be strong when persecution comes to me?

**Answer:** Stay close to God each day. Pray much. Read His Word. Pray for those who give you a hard time. Refuse to let anything keep you from following Jesus.

**8. Question:** How can I get my friends to follow Jesus?

**Answer:** Be sure to live before your friends a consistent life as a follower of Jesus. Pray for them. Share with them what Jesus has done in your life. Ask them to trust Jesus as Savior and follow Him.

Thank you for listening and taking part in this program. May God be with you and keep you safe.

**(Music: Theme music swells dramatically; then fades as broadcast ends)**

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