

What Is In Your Hand?

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Exodus 4:1-5 (NKJV) *“Then Moses answered and said, ‘But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, ‘The LORD has not appeared to you.’”*² *So the LORD said to him, ‘What is that in your hand?’ He said, ‘A rod.’*³ *And He said, ‘Cast it on the ground.’ So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it.*⁴ *Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Reach out your hand and take it by the tail’ (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand),*⁵ *‘that they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.’”*

Moses’ experience is too often our own. God calls us to go in His name. Instead of believing that God will be with us, we will look at all of the obstacles in our way. If God is God, and He is, then why would we question Him or fail to trust Him?

If we were honest, as believers we have all sensed at one time or the other that God was calling us to do something. The obvious question then is, “Are we going?” or “Are we doing?” If not, why not? The answer to that question is always “excuses.” We are usually pretty gifted at coming up with excuses why we cannot do what God has called us to do. They seem like good excuses to us, but what does God think?

When God called Moses, Moses immediately saw an obstacle—credibility. He just knew that no one would believe that he had heard from God. Did he think that God had not thought of that? God already knew the obstacles that Moses would face and he already knew what He would do and how He would do it. His reply to Moses was a question: “What is in YOUR hand?”

Moses had been a shepherd working for his father-in-law Jethro. Moses carried a rod, likely a staff for stability in walking on the rocky, sandy, and hilly terrain. Moses thought he was underequipped for the task. However, God showed him that He didn’t need a lot. All He needed was the rod in Moses’ hand. In reality, God has put something in your hand that He can use! It may not seem like much but it is what you have. Little becomes much when we put it in the MASTER’S HAND.

As a shepherd, Moses’ rod would also symbolize his authority as a shepherd. The Lord told Moses, “Cast it on the ground!” Before God could use the rod, Moses had to let go of it so that God could use it. When Moses cast it down, it became a serpent. When God told him to pick it back up by the tail, it turned back into a rod again. From this time on Moses’ rod was also referred to as the rod of God. Moses stretched out the rod over the Nile River, and its waters became blood. Moses stretch out this rod over the Red Sea and it parted. With Moses’ rod, God would deliver His people from Pharaoh’s iron fist. So, the question is, “What is in your hand?”

When God rejected Saul from being king over Israel, Samuel was in distress and grief. He didn’t know what the outcome for Israel would be. However, God had a plan: *“Now the LORD said to Samuel, ‘How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons.’”*¹ God would use the flask of oil in Samuel’s hand to set in motion a change in national leadership.

When the mighty Philistine giant named Goliath blasphemed the armies of Israel, David knew something had to be done. David was not trained in military armor and weapons. David was a shepherd. All he had was a staff and a sling. That’s all God needed: *“Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd’s bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.”*² God delivered the mighty Goliath into David’s hand with what he had in his hand!

One day when Jesus had taught, He knew the people were hungry and that they needed food before their long journey home. He told His disciples that they would feed the multitudes. They were amazed at such a thought. How would they ever have enough to feed such a crowd? Jesus simply asked, “What do you have?” People often look at what they do not have. God looks at what we do have. After making inquiry, Andrew said: *“There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?”*¹⁰ *Then Jesus said, ‘Make the people sit down.’ Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.*¹¹ *And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.*¹² *So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, ‘Gather up the fragments that remain, so*

¹ 1 Samuel 16:1 (NKJV)

² 1 Samuel 17:40 (NKJV)

that nothing is lost.’¹³ Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.¹⁴ Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, ‘This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.’¹⁵ Jesus feed over five thousand men not counting women and children with what they had in their hand. Many give nothing because they cannot give a lot. They fail to consider that little becomes a lot in the Master’s hand. A little can feed a multitude with God’s blessing on it.

The fact is, God expects us to use what we have rather than compare what we have to others who have more. Jesus made this clear in The Parable of the Talents: “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.¹⁵ And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.¹⁶ Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.¹⁷ And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.¹⁸ But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money.”⁴ The servant who had the least did nothing. Later he would be called a wicked and lazy servant. What he had would be taken from him and given to those who did something with what they had. What has God committed to your hand?

God had called Zerubbabel to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem that had been destroyed. Zerubbabel wondered how he would be able to accomplish such a great feat. But God had put a plumb line in his hand: “So he answered and said to me: ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the LORD of hosts.⁷ “Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’”⁸ Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ⁹ ‘The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands shall also finish it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.¹⁰ For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD, which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth.’”⁵ When Zerubbabel started it didn’t seem like much. However, the Lord told him not to despise the day of small things. If we will use what God has put in our hand and He will do the work by His Spirit!

What if we have nothing at all? That seemed to be the case with Peter and John: “Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.² And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;³ who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.⁴ And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, ‘Look at us.’⁵ So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.⁶ Then Peter said, ‘Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.’⁷ And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.⁸ So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.”⁶ They had something in their hand that the beggar could not see, the anointing of Jesus Christ! They gave the crippled beggar what they had and God did the miracle.

What is in YOUR HAND? Don’t say I can’t do it for Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) says, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Don’t look at what you do not have. Look at what you DO have! Maybe all we have is “time”. We can invest that time in service for the kingdom. Maybe all we have is a talent or skill. We can give that talent to God to use to build His kingdom. Maybe God has blessed us with treasure in the form of money, wealth, or resources. Invest what is in your hand into the kingdom and watch God do a miracle! Little becomes much when you put what is in your hand in the Master’s HAND!

³ John 6:8–14 (NKJV)

⁴ Matthew 25:14–18 (NKJV)

⁵ Zechariah 4:6–10 (NKJV)

⁶ Acts 3:1–8 (NKJV)