



## **What is In Your Hand?**

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### **Introduction:**

Several weeks ago I woke up with God pouring these thoughts into my head and spirit, so this morning we are going to ponder this question.....What is that in your hand?

I believe God's word will challenge us today as we consider this question.

### **Exodus 4:2**

Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied.

God asks Moses this question in the middle of a conversation they were having. The conversation took place in the middle of the desert where God revealed Himself to Moses in a burning bush. He had a mission for Moses and Moses had all kinds of questions. They were questions such as, "what if?" and "who am I?"

It is hard to answer "what if" questions because such questions are based on a scenario that hasn't happened yet. Moses needed to look at himself for what God was calling him to do and recognize that even though he had sinned and felt only qualified to tend sheep in the desert, God had greater plans for him.

At this point in the conversation between God and Moses, God wants to reassure Moses that he is with him and so he asks Moses to consider what was in his hand.

God wanted Moses to recognize what he had to work with. At this point in the conversation Moses looked and answered God. "A rod", said Moses.

By causing Moses to look at that rod, Moses would have to admit to us and God and anyone that the rod was nothing special. It was a stick that he had picked up somewhere in his travels to help him tend sheep and to lean on when he was tired. It was a simple, ordinary rod.

But God wanted to reinforce to Moses that He can do something amazing with ordinary things including a dead stick, if Moses would obey and follow His instructions.

He told Moses to throw it down, and it became a serpent. That rod became a tool of authority and the demonstration of God's power to Moses, God's people and the Egyptians. There were many miraculous ways God showed His awesome power.

## **I. God wants us to use the authority and strength he has put in our hand**

There was authority in Moses' hand to operate at the obedience of God. God backed up Moses' obedience by demonstrating in visual power what He had told Moses to do.

When God asks us what is in our hand, understand that He wants us to recognize that He has given us authority and strength.

Some of you who sit here this morning may be saying to yourself right now, I don't have anything in my hand. I don't even have a rod in my hand like Moses.

Whenever I think of hands, I think of the strength that is there. Hands hold the strength to labor, to move things, to carry, to lift, to hold, to give away, to save, and to direct.

How do we use the strength that God has given us? Is that strength directed toward God's kingdom, toward our family, toward serving Him?

When God created the environment around us in which we live, He spoke it all into existence. When He made man He used His hands and created him out of the dust of the earth. He took something that was so ordinary and breathed into what He had made and man became a living soul.

*God is so able to take common things that do not seem valuable and do something miraculous with them.*

God took the common flask of oil and a small amount of meal, something that was very small compared to the need of a widow woman, and because of her obedience, the small amount she had became the means for her to pay her bills.

God took the common ordinary 2 loaves and 5 fish and multiplied them so that there was enough to feed 5,000 with 12 baskets full left over.

God took the common ordinary 5 stones and a sling-shot and caused one stone to slay the giant who dared to challenge the God of Israel.

God takes common ordinary things that we have in our hand and if we obey and release them to Him,

miracles will take place and God's name will be honored and His kingdom will be advanced.

Let me challenge you that God has placed strength in your hand. It is the strength to hold on or let go, the strength to build up or tear down, the strength to serve and reach out.

Something so simple and ordinary can become miraculous in your hand. With the strength of our hand we can do lots of things either constructive or destructive. We can write notes of encouragement, we can build. We can reach out our hand to a person who needs help. God will use what we offer to Him. The amount, size or commonness of what is given to God really doesn't have any bearing on what God can do with it. He is God and what He really is looking for is someone who will be yielded and responsive to Him.

The rod that Moses carried was a simple walking stick but it became a symbol of God's power and authority. We have to be careful that we do not allow the things in our hands to be something we use as an excuse or a crutch. The things we lean on we are also comforted by and we should be relying on God Himself.

## **II. God wants us to use the ability He has put in our hand**

At times we argue with God and say, I am not able to do what it is you are calling me to do. I can not talk to other people. I cannot pray for people, I cannot witness to people, I cannot teach, I cannot disciple someone, and we limit God because we fail to recognize the ability He has given us.

There is nothing that God will call you to do, but He has already equipped you to do it. When He asks us to trust Him and obey Him, we say, "yes Lord, I will trust you and obey you." We will trust even if we don't see the end result, even if we have questions and even if we don't understand the whole picture and what God is doing.

Moses was content to live out his days feeding and tending sheep on the back side of the desert when God came and revealed Himself to him. All of a sudden, his whole world changed. God was going to move and He was going to use Moses to bring deliverance to His people.

Moses couldn't see the whole picture at that point. He felt inadequate. He had questions. He did not feel like he was qualified or like he wanted to dig in. So God had to get his attention to look closely at what was in his hand.

If God prompts you to speak to a neighbor or co-worker, or family member about His power to forgive and transform their lives, then He has given you the ability to do that.

We see God doing that with others in Biblical stories too. Look at how God spoke to Jonah. God said, "Go

to Ninevah and speak to that city." Jonah didn't want to go. But God had prepared him with a message.

I'm a firm believer that God is always preparing us for what lies ahead. Our faith in Him will be tested. There is no getting around it. Without tests we don't know what we have learned and how we will respond in the time of trouble.

What abilities has God blessed you with?

### **Conclusion:**

What is in your hand? Examine it and use it. Do not look at it as being too small or insignificant. Be deterred from handing it back to God because it is so little. What we have is what the Lord wants. What we are He has made us and for this hour. What is that in your hand? And the Lord would have us respond, "It is your own, Lord. It has been redeemed by you. It belongs to you. Here it is, Lord, take it. Here am I Lord, take me."