

## **What is That in Your Hand?**

The Bible is full of interesting conversations about all kinds of issues between all kinds of people, but those between God and some of His people are extraordinary. I want to take you back to one of the most intriguing and revealing conversation in the whole Bible. This is the one between God and Moses found in the beginning of the Book of Exodus in chapters 1 - 4, especially the question found in 4:2.

In this wonderful passage, Moses, who had already fled from Egypt after he kills someone, sees God in a burning bush. And after what must have been a shocking scene and some introduction and instructions, Moses begins to tell God about his own limitations, doubting he had anything to offer to God's master plan in convincing the mighty Pharaoh to let His people go. I guess it is understanding that he was in shock and did not have time to think things through at that moment, but I believe what we have here goes beyond the simple result of God being able to perform a magic act of transforming Moses' staff into a snake.

So, after God tells Moses what to do (Moses was probably shaking in his pants), he turns to God and say:

**“Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”**

And that is when things get really strange, because God asks him a very silly question:

**“What is that in your hand?”**

Why is God asking this question? Was God asking because He did not know? But since we know that He knows everything, this seems to be a very silly question made by the Creator. In shock, Moses gives God the only obvious answer: “A staff,” because that was really the only thing he could see or understand he had in his hands. However, that is not what God saw he had and the lesson He wanted Moses (and us) to learn!

It is obvious that God knew what Moses had in his hands, but in this innocent and silly question, “What is that in your hand?” God wanted to show Moses that what he thought he had in his hands, a simple rod made of a broken branch, a symbol of his present modest condition as a shepherd, could be used by God to humble the mightiest nation on earth. Moses' attitude demonstrated He did not understand, but needed to understand, that it was not what he brought to God that would make a difference, but what God could do to whatever he had in his hands which

would do the unimaginable. In other words, we can never limit God to what He can do with what we have.

Throughout the Bible, over and over again we see God taking the weakest or simplest things to accomplish His mightiest ends. For instance, the “staff” of Moses in this passage which humbled pharaoh’s pride, or “a ram’s horn” that brought down the walls of Jericho to Joshua (Joshua 6:2-5), or teenager David’s sling (1 Samuel 17) which brought down the mighty giant and his whole nation. In all these instances, God did not ask, “What can you do?” or made any demands to what we do not already have. What is important to understand is that when we surrender the small and little things we already have to God, that is when He is able to perform His mighty miracles.

**“What is that in your hand?”**

In our Blessings of the Hands today, my prayer is that God will bless our hands and our hearts, so that they can be a blessing to all the people we serve. But not only that, that we may always remember that it does not matter what we bring to God, great or small, but that He often does His greatest works by the humblest means.

“What is that in your hands?” This is what Jesus might have asked a few uneducated guys as they were casting a net into the lake. Thinking it was a silly question, they entertained Him answering, “a net.” To those poor and uneducated fishermen, the only thing they could think to do with their hands was to throw a net and catch fish, but to Jesus their hands would become the means by which millions of souls would be saved for eternity.

**“What is that in your hands?”**

I’ll let you reflect on this question.

God bless!!

Chaplain Jay Storch  
Blessing of the Hands, May 27, 2021

## BLESSINGS OF HANDS PRAYER

As we take a moment to reflect on what we have in your Hands, let's take a deep breath! If you have some aromatic lotion or essential oils you like, pour some in your hands and rub them together. You can keep your hands closed or you can open them or raise them, whatever feels comfortable to you.

I thank you Lord for this opportunity to Bless the Hands of those who bless others. I thank you for the gift of Love, Grace and Mercy you have placed in these Hands. They have served tirelessly and in the face of dangers seen and unseen. Please pour into them Strength, Joy, Peace and Healing knowing that you have not forgotten their labor of love. Bless them indeed, enlarge their territories, keep them from evil and give them the desires of their heart. Bless these Hands today and always in your precious name, Jesus, Amen.

Chaplain Pam Nevels  
Blessings of the Hands, May 27, 2021