

WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR HAND?

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Harvest Club Edition

Acts 7:20-34

Stephen recalls the story of Moses from Exodus chapters 2, 3 and 4.

Moses' destiny is revealed to him by God. He is 80 years old.

He is to be the deliverer of Israel from the bondage of Egypt.

It had been a part of his being all of his life, even when he didn't realize it.

Exod. 2:11-12 *And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren. :12 And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.*

Whatever angers you is more than likely your calling. Your passion.

I. What's That In Your Hand?

Exod. 4:1-2 *And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee. :2 And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.*

The word "hand" is found 1292 times in scripture.

A. A rod. A piece of wood. The tool of his trade. The rod was used for correction and the staff for comfort.

1. Moses had exhibited his desire to liberate Israel when he killed the Egyptian 40 years earlier, quite possibly with a piece of wood.
2. The rod represents that thing thing that is within your;
 - a. Control or power.
 - b. Influence.
 - c. Reach. (That which is *at hand*.)
 - d. Talent and abilities. Our gifts and talents are irrevocable.

Rom. 11:29 *For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.*

B. God used the man the way he was then, not the way he had been before.

1. Moses had been a prince of Egypt and could have possibly brought political deliverance to Israel from his elevated position.

- a. He was now in a better spiritual position to fulfill his destiny than he was before.

[1.] God waited forty years. Moses was now humble.

b. This way it proves that God and not Moses did it. This is God's style.

[1.] Gideon's army is trimmed by God from 32,000 men to 300.
Judg. 7:2 *And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.*

[2.] Warns Israel not to take the credit for their own prosperity.
Deut. 8:11,17 *Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: :17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.*

2. He's not interested in what you don't have.

Our excuses can become our problems.

a. Moses claimed that he was not a good speaker.

Exod. 4:10-16 *And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. :11 And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? :12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say. :13 And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send. :14 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart. :15 And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. :16 And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.*

b. He felt inadequate.

[1.] God shows him that he will supply the power.

Exod. 4:3-5,17 *And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. :4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth 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, hath appeared unto thee. :17 And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.*

Zech. 4:6 ... *Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*

Phil. 4:13

c. He felt unconfident.

Exod. 4:10-11 *And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. :11 And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?*

[1.] Thought that he needed help. God appeases him.

Exod. 4:13-16 *And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send. :14 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart. :15 And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. :16 And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.*

Isa. 43:4 *Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.*

d. He felt unworthy. After all he was a murderer.

[1.] God shows him that he can bring transformation to people's lives. The hand that was sinful was made clean.

1Jn. 1:9

Exod. 4:6 *And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. :7 And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh.*

e. God needs obedience, maturity and availability.

Num. 12:3 *(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)*

2Tim. 2:22 *Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

1Tim. 3:6 *Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.*

[1.] Moses' youthful zeal brought him to murder.

[2.] God will use you, *as is*, with what you *now* have within your control.

C. You now have everything that you need to proceed with fulfilling your destiny.

1. God is able to bless that which you already have.

Job 40:10-14 Deck thyself now with majesty and excellency; and array thyself with glory and beauty. :11 Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath: and behold every one that is proud, and abase him. :12 Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place. :13 Hide them in the dust together; and bind their faces in secret. :14 Then will I also confess unto thee that thine own right hand can save thee.

II. God Will Show You What To Do With What You've Got.

Exod. 4:17 And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.

A. The widow woman and Elijah. *1Kgs. 17:8-16*

B. Jesus and the loaves and fishes.

John 6:9-13 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? :10 And Jesus said, Make the men 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 to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. :12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. :13 Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

C. David and Goliath. He used a slingshot.

III. Ask Yourself, What's In My Hand?

Prov. 12:27 The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.

A. The Kingdom of God.

Luke 17:21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

1. Is come to us.

Matt. 12:28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

2. Is within reach.

Mark 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand:...

Luke 10:9 And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

3. Is freely and gladly given.

Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

- B. Talent and abilities.
1. Each of us is unique in some way or ways, whether we realize it or not.
 2. God will help you identify your gifts and callings.
- C. Prosperity.
- Deut. 8:18 *But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth,...*
1. Power or ability.
 2. The tithe is in your hand.
Deut. 14:29 *And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest.*
 3. Seed is in your hand.
Eccl. 11:6 *In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.*
2Cor. 9:10 *Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)*
- D. Deliverance.
1. Job was told to get up, put his pants on, dress in his best and act like a man and that his deliverance was in Job's own hand.
Job 40:7,10,14 *Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. :10 Deck thyself now with majesty and excellency; and array thyself with glory and beauty. :14 Then will I also confess unto thee that thine own right hand can save thee.*
 - a. For others as well.
Acts 4:30 *By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.*
Prov. 3:27 *Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.*
- Take that which is in your hand and don't look back.
Luke 9:62 *And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*
 - God will bless all that you put your hand to if you remain obedient to Him.
Deut. 28:8 *The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*
 - God has preordained your destiny, but its fulfillment is in your hands.

You hold in your hand the tools of destruction or the keys to the Kingdom.
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Pastor David Joe May

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