

WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND?

Exodus 4:1-5

What happens when average people with common possessions yield them to God?

I. A CONTEXT TO CONSIDER (Exodus 3:1-4:1)

A. GOD'S ACTIONS (3:1-10)

1. Get Moses' attention (3:1-9)
2. Commission Moses for service (10)

B. MOSES' ATTITUDE (3:11-4:1)

1. Questions

- a. Who am I? (11-12)
 - Answer: I will be with you
- b. Who are you? (13-14)
 - Answer: Tell them I AM has sent you to them
- c. Suppose they will not believe me? (4:1)
 - Answer: God has already said that they would (see 3:18)

2. Reluctance

- a. God wonderfully demonstrated His power and definitely directed Moses, but Moses hesitated
- b. Moses was not fully convinced nor totally willing

II. SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER (4:2-5)

A. WHAT DO YOU HAVE? (2)

1. God did not ask for something that was impossible or unobtainable
 - a. God did not ask what Moses did not have
 - b. This is not about someday but now ... what do you have right now?
2. Moses had a staff
 - a. It was ordinary - a common thing
 - b. It was available - a close thing
 - c. It was suited to him - a comfortable thing
3. Think of others ...
 - a. In Nehemiah they had trowels in their hand - Neh. 3
 - b. At Jericho some priests had rams' horns in their hands - Josh. 6:4-5
 - c. With the Philistines Shamgar had an ox goad in his hand - Judges 3:31
 - d. In Zaananim, Jael had a tent peg in her hand - Judges 4:21
 - e. Samson had a jawbone in his hand - Judges 15:15
 - f. David had a sling in his hand - I Sam. 17:40
 - g. Dorcus had a sewing basket in her hand - Acts 9:39

B. WHAT DOES GOD COMMAND? (3a)

- Let go! Use what's in your hand!

C. WHAT CAN GOD DO? (3b-5)

1. God can do a miracle! (3b)
2. God can change an 80-year-old man! (3b-4)
3. God can use us to influence others (5)

D. WHAT DID GOD DO?

1. Initially > God used what Moses yielded
2. Additionally (6-9) > God enabled and reassured Moses with two more signs
3. Ultimately > God used a man with a stick to walk His people out of Egypt across the Red Sea, through the wilderness and up to the promised land!

E. WHAT HAS GOD DONE?

1. He has divinely commissioned us - Matthew 28:19-20
2. He has divinely enabled us - I Corinthians 12:4-7

III. A COMMAND TO CONSIDER - *Ecclesiastes 9:10***A. WHATEVER: The options**

- All that your hand can reach

B. JUST DO IT: The order

- Do it according to your power or strength

C. REMEMBER: The opportunity

- Our work is limited to our lifetime

IV. A CONDITION TO CONSIDER**A. LOOK AT YOUR HAND****B. ASK: WHAT DOES GOD SEE?**

1. A fist: Gripping all that you have
2. A palm: Giving to God all that you have

CONCLUSION: Will you give what you have to God?