

HOLDING HANDS

Exodus 17:8-16

We need to be holding hands and prayerfully accomplishing much for God.

I. THE CRISIS SITUATION (8-11)

A. DANGER (8)

- An unprovoked attack on unprepared people

B. RESPONSE (9-10)

1. A two-fold plan (9)
 - Physical and spiritual
2. The implementation (10)
 - They each followed through with the plan
3. Note: There is a combination of personnel, power and prayer here
 - Though we depend upon God the use of other means is not unwise

C. UNCERTAINTY (11)

- The outcome was not clear even though each one was doing his part

D. REALITY

1. If everything depends on one person the outcome is often questionable
2. The man with the staff needed support (a support staff)

II. THE HAND-HOLDING TEAM (12-16)

- When the threat of danger comes, we need someone to hold our hand!

A. SUPPORTING HANDS (12) > *Aaron and Hur*

1. Consider the team
 - a. Aaron: The brother of Moses and God's spokesman to Israel
 - b. Hur: An obscure and generally unknown assistant
2. Note that they were there before they knew they were needed (10)
3. When action was needed they knew what to do
4. They never tried to usurp the leadership
5. Example: The Apostle Paul had many in his support team – consider Romans 16:3-15 and Colossians 4:7-17

B. SERVING HANDS (9-10, 13-14) > *Joshua* [first mentioned here]

1. Taking orders (9)
2. Taking charge (10)
3. Taking victory (13)
4. Taking instruction (14)

C. SOVEREIGN HANDS (15-16) > *Jehovah Nissi*

1. Moses' claim: "The-Lord-Is-My-Banner"
 - a. God is the One who reigns and whom I respect
 - b. I march beneath His banner
2. Moses' altar: Calling attention to God
 - a. Moses is giving glory to God
 - b. "Let me call your attention to God!"
3. God's Announcement (16)
 - Promising perpetual war with the Amalekites

III. A PRAYER FORCE APPLICATION

A. WE FACE OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES

1. Obstacles: Secularism and selfishness
2. Opportunities
 - a. We have the property and personnel to do great things for God on Indy's east side
 - b. We can develop a passion that will infiltrate the congregation and affect our community

B. WE NEED TEAMWORK - I Cor. 3:4-9

1. Some who faithfully, physically serve
2. Others who passionately, spiritually pray

C. WE NEED PRAYER WARRIORS

1. Inspiration
 - a. The exhortation of I Timothy 2:8
 - b. The example of Epaphras in Colossians 4:12
2. Identification
 - a. If you are interested in this Prayer Force ministry, make yourself known to us
 - b. Sign up in the foyer to indicate your interest
 - c. Plan to meet during Sunday School on September 20 to review a "Prayer Force Manual"
3. Involvement
 - a. Commit 10-15 minutes per day to pray for specific elements of our church's ministries
 - b. Meet every 5th Sunday during the Sunday School hour

CONCLUSION:

We need hand-holding, God-honoring prayer warriors who will passionately and purposefully seek the Lord for our ministry.