

Good Hands

Woodland Bible Camp Senior Week

September 11, 2024

1) Introduction

- a) This lesson is a hand-me-down.
 - i) Well, not really, but it is about hands.
 - ii) Our focus will be on whose **hands** have we placed ourselves.
- b) Allstate Insurance had the slogan “You are in good hands with Allstate”
 - i) Allstate's slogan "You're in good hands" was created in the 1950s by Allstate Insurance Company's sales executive, Davis W. Ellis based on a similar phrase he used to reassure his wife about a doctor caring for their child. It has been the slogan ever since 1950.
 - ii) It may have been effective.
 - iii) Now their slogan is “better be protected from mayhem.”
- c) My working career was with Jewish Hospital in Louisville.
 - i) The hospital became known in the United States as well in parts of the world for hand surgery.
 - ii) The Drs. Kleinert and Kutz led the program there.
 - iii) They were able to reattach fingers, arms, and hands that had been severed.
 - iv) So, there were able restore use to hands.
 - v) Sometimes we may feel like we need more than two hand to get everything accomplished.
 - vi) Milton Berle had this to say about hands: If evolution really works, how come mother only has two hands?
- d) Some people like to live on the edge.
 - i) Other people seek security.

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- ii) They may want hand holding.
 - (1) When we went to Jamaica in 2018, we visited Dunn's River Falls.
 - (2) At about 180 feet high and 600 feet long, [3] the waterfalls are terraced like giant natural stairs though some incorporate man-made improvements. Several small lagoons are interspersed among the vertical sections of the falls.
 - (3) What is unique about this place is that you walk up the falls in the rushing water.
 - (4) You really cannot see with any certainty where you are placing your feet.
 - (5) Visitors hold hands as they carefully place their feet on the next rock up.
 - (6) I am thankful for the people that held my hand as I made the way up the falls.
 - (7) Vince Lombardi: When we place our dependence in God, we are unencumbered, and we have no worry. In fact, we may even be reckless, insofar as our part in the production is concerned. This confidence, this sureness of action, is both contagious and an aid to the perfect action. The rest is in the hands of God - and this is the same God, gentlemen, who has won all His battles up to now. Vince Lombardi
- iii) When people are dating, they will hold hands to establish a close relationship.
- iv) It would do well for us to hold hands with God.
- e) Life certainly can contain the elements of physical danger, but spiritual danger has greater consequences.
 - i) If we make a misstep in this physical life, we may be hurt or even die.

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- ii) It would not have been pleasant to fall down the Dunn's River Falls.
 - iii) If we make spiritual misstep regarding God, then everything could be lost.
- 2) When we consider the aspect of being in someone's hands, there is the thought of control.
- a) Satan seeks to control man-kind.
 - i) He did that with Adam and Eve.
 - (1) Genesis 3:1 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"
 - (2) 2 "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. 3 "It is only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'"
 - (3) 4 "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. 5 "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."
 - (4) 6 The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. 7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So, they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.
 - ii) She believed Satan's lie.
 - iii) They had taken themselves out of God's protective **hand**.
 - iv) There was price for this departure from God.

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- (1) the ground is cursed because of you.
 - (2) All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.
 - (3) It will grow thorns and thistles for you,
 - (4) until you return to the ground
 - (5) from which you were made.
 - (6) For you were made from dust,
 - (7) and to dust you will return.”
- b) On the other hand, pun intended, God desires that we place ourselves in hands. This act is voluntary.
- c) Job, was a man that was blessed by God.
- i) Satan took notice of this, and he planned an attack. He wanted him in his hands and not that of God.
 - (1) Job 1:8
 - (a) 8 Then the LORD asked Satan, “Have you noticed my servant, Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil.”
 - (b) 9 Satan replied to the LORD, “Yes, but Job has good reason to fear God. 10 You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is! 11 But reach out and take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!”
 - (2) Satan sought to take Job out of God’s hands.
 - (a) Job received a series of bad news regarding his family and his possessions.
 - (i) Job 1:20 Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship. 21 He said, “I came naked from my mother’s womb,

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and I will be naked when I leave.
The LORD gave me what I had,
and the LORD has taken it away.
Praise the name of the LORD!”

22 In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God.

(b) Martin Luther: I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.

(c) We have to realize that we as Christians are Satan’s mission field.

(i) He already has the rest of the world.

(ii) He wants to keep what he has.

(iii) His goal is to take away those that have made a commitment to Jesus.

(d) Satan did not give up.

(i) He came back to God with this challenge.

Job 2:4 Satan replied to the LORD, “Skin for skin! A man will give up everything he has to save his life. 5 But reach out and take away his health, and he will surely curse you to your face!”

6 “All right, do with him as you please,” the LORD said to Satan. “But spare his life.” 7 So Satan left the LORD’s presence, and he struck Job with terrible boils from head to foot.

8 Job scraped his skin with a piece of broken pottery as he sat among the ashes. 9 His wife said to him, “Are you still trying to maintain your integrity? Curse God and die.”

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10 But Job replied, “You talk like a foolish woman. Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?” So in all this, Job said nothing wrong.

ii) Job was a man of integrity.

(1) He did not understand all that happened to him.

(2) He did seek the hand of God to be over him.

(3) Job was given this insight.

(a) Job 12:10 For the life of every living thing is in his **hand**, and the breath of every human being.

(b) Are those good hands?

(c) Yes indeed.

iii) People will align themselves with evil instead of good, and place themselves in the hand of the devil.

(1) (1Ki 16:30) And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him.

(2) (1Ki 16:31) And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.

(3) (1Ki 16:32) And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

(4) (1Ki 16:33) And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.

(5) He refused to honor God.

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(6) He worshipped man-made gods.

(7) Ronald Reagan: God's miracles are to be found in nature itself; the wind and waves, the wood that becomes a tree - all of these are explained biologically, but behind them is the hand of God.
Ronald Reagan

d) Yet if we despise his care, there will be consequences.

i) Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

ii) Matthew Henry: How dreadful is the case, when not only the justice of God, but his abused grace and mercy call for vengeance! All this does not in the least mean that any souls who sorrow for sin will be shut out from mercy, or that any will be refused the benefit of Christ's sacrifice, who are willing to accept these blessings. Him that cometh unto Christ, he will in no wise cast out.

3) The life that we live is filled with choices.

a) We can choose to place ourselves in God's protective care.

b) Or we can reject his grace.

c) The world has its allures.

i) Jesus said in Matthew 13:22

ii) He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

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4) Examples

- a) David had a sense as to where he needed to trust.
 - i) (Psa 31:4) Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily for me: for thou art my strength.
 - ii) (Psa 31:5) Into thine **hand** I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.
- b) God is sovereign.
 - i) He is in complete control.
 - ii) People may think that they can escape power of God.
 - iii) He will not allow that to happen.
 - iv) Isaiah 43:13 New Living: “From eternity to eternity I am God. No one can snatch anyone out of my hand. No one can undo what I have done.”
- c) There is an old saying
 - i) When the going gets tough, the tough get going.
 - ii) We do not always know what we are going to face.
 - iii) (Psa 23:4) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
 - iv) Tom Landry: As a Christian, I know my life is in God's hands. He has a plan for me. Therefore, I never worry about tomorrow or never worry about winning or losing football games. That knowledge gives me a lot of composure in tough situations. Tom Landry

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- d) Peter made it plain that service to God may come with some pain.
 - i) Yet there would be the safe harbor with God.
 - ii) Bible in Basic English (1Pe 4:19) For this reason let those who by the purpose of God undergo punishment, keep on in well-doing and put their souls into the safe hands of their Maker.

- e) A part of our Christian walk has to be done with humility.
 - i) There are those in Christendom that seem to enjoy the honor bestowed upon.
 - ii) 1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:
 - iii) There can be the honor bestowed, but only through God powerful hand and His timetable.
 - iv) John Kennedy The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God.

- f) Jesus taught regarding our value to the heavenly father.
 - i) Luke 12:6
 - (1)(Luk 12:6) Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?
 - (2)(Luk 12:7) But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.
 - ii) Sometimes we can become discouraged in our lives. Christians can become despondent.
 - (1) Jesus valued us so much that He died for us.

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(2)(Joh 3:16) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

(3) Does Jesus Care - Song

(a) Does Jesus care when my heart is pained
Too deeply for mirth or song,
As the burdens press, and the cares distress,
And the way grows weary and long?

iii) It is up to us to place our eternal destiny into God's hands.

(1) Matthew 11:28 Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

(2) Do we really take Him up on that?

(3) We may have the attitude of "I will do it **me self**."

(4) My mother used to describe people as "independent has a hog on ice."

(5) I have never seen a hog on ice, but perhaps they do not desire help.

g) Ultimately Christ Himself put His life into the hands of the Father.

i) He went to the cross.

ii) He paid the ultimate price to redeem mankind.

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- iii) (Luk 23:46) And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, **Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit:** and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

- iv) That is what every Christian does when they commit themselves to Jesus Christ.

- v) We are placing ourselves in the security of His hands.

- h) Christians must be vigilant in their walk.
 - i) We are challenged maintain our faith.
 - ii) It has to be lived in a humble way.
 - (1) Do you remember an Old Testament character that had trouble with pride in the book of Esther?
 - (2) Haman. He wanted to be looked up to.
 - (a) Eventually that happened.
 - (b) He was hung on the gallows he had built for Mordecai.
 - (3) I Peter 5:6
 - (a) (1Pe 5:6) Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:
 - (b) (1Pe 5:7) Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

- 5) Conclusion
 - a) Peter was excited to see the Lord Jesus walking upon the water.

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- i) But a problem arose.
- ii) (Mat 14:30) But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.
- iii) (Mat 14:31) And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his hand*, and caught him, and said unto him, *O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*
- iv) When we take our eyes off the prize, we will fall.
- v) We have hope in the Lord because he has promised never to forsake us.
- vi) We have surety of our salvation.
 - (1) John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all.
 - (2) This is a faithful promise that has been made.
 - (3) As we leave here, we can extend the right hand of fellowship.
Galatians 2:9
- 6) Dwight Eisenhower had this to say, The future is very markedly in your hands, its value and its moral standing in the world and among ourselves. If you will take the power, you have and use it, I have no fear of the outcome of the future.
 - a) This may not be religious quote.
 - b) It does imply that we have the choice of where we place our hand to shape our future.

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