

Hands of the Savior

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Study by W.D. Frazee—November 5, 1965

Wonderful hands, hands of the Savior. Let's think about them tonight. You know, we are told, that it would be well for us, to spend some time each day, in meditation, on the life of Jesus. So I have been getting a blessing, in thinking about the hands of the Savior. We see there in Bethlehem's manger, we look at those little baby hands. How His mother must have thrilled, when the time came, that those little hands, reached out for her. We think of Him, as a boy growing up, in Nazareth. We think of the toiling hands, the hands that carried the wood, that brought the water. We think of Him as a working man, in the carpenter's shop. A carpenter uses his hands, doesn't he? And that was even more true, in the days when Jesus was the carpenter. And then we see Him coming into young manhood, leaving the carpenter's shop, going down to Jordan, being baptized, entering upon His public ministry.

Now turn to Matthew, the eighth chapter, and we will begin to look at some of these glimpses of the hands of Jesus, as given to us in the Gospels. Matthew eight. This is at the close of the Sermon on the Mount.

"When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. And, behold, there came a leper and worshiped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed" Matthew 8:1-2.

Thank God, for the cleansing hands, of Jesus. And when we sense our sins, when we feel the leprosy of sin, we, like this leper, can kneel at the feet of Jesus, and beseech Him, that He will extend His cleansing hands. Will He do it? Thank the Lord. Now turn to Matthew, the fourteenth chapter, beginning with the fifteenth verse, we read the story of the feeding of the multitude. The five thousand, you will remember, that as the disciples looked over the available resources, all they could find, was five loaves and two fishes, in the hands of a little boy. He was willing for those supplies to be used by the Master. The 19th verse.

"...he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude" Matthew 14:19.

Desire of Ages page 369.

“The food multiplied in His hands; and the hands of the disciples, reaching out to Christ....were never empty” *Desire of Ages*, pages 369-370.

Isn't that wonderful friends? Oh, those mighty hands! The hands that hung the world in space, were now holding those little loaves of bread and breaking them. The multiplying hands of Christ, were at work, and to us it is written, that if we will bring our barley loaves to Jesus... If we will bring to Him what we have of time, of money, of strength. He will take in His hands our poor, weak, lives, and bless them, and use them in His service. What a wonderful assurance!

Mark, the third chapter. This is a touching scene in the life of Jesus. As He comes to the time, when He is to take the first step in the organization of the church. Which after His departure, is to carry on His work. Mark, three, thirteen.

“...he goeth up into a mountain, and calls unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils” Mark 3:13-15.

What a wonderful foundation for gospel-medical evangelism, Jesus built that day. Now, in this ordination service, we are told in *Desire of Ages* 296, that...

“...He (Christ) gathered the little band close about Him, and kneeling in the midst of them, and laying His hands upon their heads, He offered a prayer dedicating them to His sacred work” *Desire of Ages*, page 296.

And so the hands of Jesus, laid upon those first apostles, where the signet of heaven, indicating God's acceptance of them, in the mission, to which heaven had called them. Luke the fourth chapter and fortieth verse. See how the Great Physician, carried on His medical missionary work.

“Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them” Luke 4:40.

Oh, what a picture of the healing hand! Think of the hundreds, the thousands, through the ministry of Christ, that came to Him, or were carried. And in so many cases, the healing was brought about, as Jesus laid His hands upon them. To His servants He gives the privilege of sharing in that ministry. For in the gospel commission, is recorded in Mark sixteen. You will remember it says...

“...they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover”
Luke 16:18.

We too, share in the ministry of the healing hands. John the eighth chapter. Here is quite a different use of those hands. How versatile the hands of Jesus were! How many uses He had! John eight, verses one through nine. This is the story, you will remember, of the woman, dragged by the Pharisees, into Christ’s presence as He was teaching in the temple. They accused her of adultery, and asked Jesus what He was going to do about it. And Jesus, on this occasion, used His voice not at all, but He used His hands. He stooped down and started writing. The sixth verse:

“...Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not” John 8:6.

Finally, growing impatient with His silence, they came and looked, and as they saw their own sins, written out by the accusing finger, the ninth verse says...

“...they...heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one...” John 8:9.

And remember, my dear friends, that writing hand, is still writing! Oh, how happy He is, when He can write down our acceptance of Him, our joy and obedience. How sad He is, when He has to write down, as He did on this occasion, the sins of men. But, written they are, all the same. Mark 10:13-16. I love this scene of the hands of Jesus, extended in blessing. Mark 10:13-16.

“...they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them” Mark 10:13-16.

We love that picture, don’t we? Yes! Many an artist has painted it, many a poet has written about it. I love this one, which I used to hear when I was a boy. The children will enjoy listening to it tonight.

“The Master has come over Jordan, said Hannah, the mother one day, He is healing the people who throng Him, with a touch of His finger they say. And now I shall carry the children, little Rachel, and Samuel, and John, I shall carry the baby Esther, for the Lord to look upon. The father looked at her kindly, but he shook his head and

smiled, "now who but a doting mother, would think of a thing so wise." If the children were tortured by demons or dying of fever, 'twere well, or had they the taint of the leper, like many in Israel. "Nay, do not hinder me, Nathan, I feel such a burden of care, if I carry to the Master, perhaps I shall leave it there. If He lay His hands on the children, my heart will be lighter I know. For a blessing forever and ever, will follow them as they go." So over the hills of Judah, along by the vine rose green, with Esther asleep on her bosom, and Rachel, her brothers between. Mid the people who hung on His teaching, or waited His touch and His word. Through the row of proud Pharisees, listening, she pressed to the feet of the Lord. "Now why shouldest thou hinder the Master" said Peter, "with children like these. Seeest not how, from morning till evening, he teacheth and healeth disease." Then Christ said, "Forbid not the children, permit them to come unto Me." And He took in His arms little Esther, and Rachel, He sat on His knee. And the heavy heart of the mother was lifted, of all of earth's care, above. As He laid His hands on the brothers, and blessed them with holiest love. And He said of the babe in His bosom, "of such is the kingdom of heaven", and strength for all duty and trial, that hour to earth's spirit were given."

Oh, I thank God for the hands of blessing, don't you? John thirteen, verses one through fourteen. We have come now to that last supper in the upper room. The twelve were seated at the table with Jesus, but the Bible says, that there was a strife among them, as to who should be the greatest. This strife, carried on in the presence of the Master, grieved Him very much. But, as on that occasion, when the Pharisees dragged the woman in, His answer is not by word of mouth, but with His hands. He goes to the side where the basin, the pitcher of water, and the towel, has been provided. He lays aside the outer garment, that would impede His movements. He takes the towel and girds Himself. He pours water into the basin, and kneels down at the feet of Judas, and begins to wash the disciples feet. In every movement, His hands were involved. The serving hands of Jesus, that night preached a most eloquent sermon, taught a most meaningful lesson. And from time to time, as we gather, in memory of our Lord's sacrifice, we, like Him, take the towel, and minister. Oh, what a privilege, my friends, to share in using our hands, as He used His hands! "I am among you" He said to them that night "as He that serves." See Luke 22:26-27.

Turn to Luke twelve, thirty-seven, and I want you to notice where His thoughts were, on this occasion. He was thinking of the great supper in heaven. You will remember, He told His disciples...(When you eat this bread, and drink this cup, you show forth my death) and keep doing this, until I come. Remember me, and remember, I won't drink of this cup until when? Until the kingdom of God. Luke 12:37.

"Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them" Luke 12:37.

The last supper that Jesus had with His disciples before He died, He served them. The first supper, we shall share with Him in the kingdom of God! He is coming forth and serves us. Will it be a wonderful thing, to have Jesus come to you, as you sit, at that long table? And say, Lois, "what would you like to have"? Jesus. David, "would you like some of this manna"? Dick, "would you like some of the figs"? You see what I mean, friends? Very personal, Jesus is in the serving business! Those hands, served on earth, they will serve us, throughout eternity.

And now we come to the cross. Luke says,

"...when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him,.." Luke 23:33.

But, we must go back to the Old Testament, in Psalms twenty-two sixteen, to find exactly what happened in the crucifixion. You have seen pictures perhaps, of the crucifixion, that showed the hands up there with ropes. But Jesus, prophetically speaking through David, in the twenty-second Psalm, the sixteenth verse says,

"...they pierced my hands and my feet" Psalm 22:16.

So the nails were actually driven through His hands and feet. And in our imagination, we gather at Calvary. We look up and see those pierced hands. Those hands, that had always been used to bless others, where now, nailed to the cross. What a price for our salvation! Later that afternoon, after He had died. Joseph of Arimathæa, and Nicodemus, two of the richest men in Jerusalem, came boldly, to minister to Christ. They took His body down from the cross, and with the help of John, bore Him reverently to Joseph's own sepulcher, hewn out of the rock. *Desire of Ages*, has a beautiful picture, of that Friday afternoon, as the shadows were lengthening, and the sun about to set. This is page seven seventy four, of *Desire of Ages*.

"Gently and reverently they removed with their own hands the body of Jesus from the cross. Their tears of sympathy fell fast as they looked upon His bruised and lacerated form. Joseph owned a new tomb, hewn in a rock. This he was reserving for himself; but it was near Calvary, and he now prepared it for Jesus. The body, together with the spices brought by Nicodemus, was carefully wrapped in a linen sheet, and the Redeemer was borne to the tomb. There the three disciples, (that's Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathæa, and John) straightened the mangled limbs, and folded the bruised hands upon the pulse less breast" *Desire of Ages*, page 774.

There is the picture, as the Sabbath begins, the folded hands of Jesus, across the pulse less breast. Those hands are resting through the holy hours of the Sabbath.

Desire of Ages, page seven seventy six, states it again. Speaking of those who had come to the temple, hunting for the great healer, and had been disappointed, because He was not there. The word was given them, that He was dead.

“The friendly hands of Jesus of Nazareth, that never refused to touch with healing the loathsome leper, were folded on His breast” *Desire of Ages*, page 776.

Oh, what a picture, those folded hands of the Savior, in the tomb. But we shall not linger long with that scene. We hasten on to the glory of the resurrection morning! We see that bright angel, come down the skies, and roll the stone away, and call forth the sleeping Son of God! And then, we marvel at, the first act, of the risen Lord. Those hands that have been resting, are active again. And what is the first thing He does? He carefully wraps the grave clothes, and places the napkin, that had been over His head, in the proper place. All is arranged neatly and carefully, before He leaves the tomb, on His way to the Father’s throne. Oh, those careful hands, my friends! Those careful hands!

Later that day, we see Him in the upper room. Turn to Luke twenty four. See how He uses these hands, as convincing evidence, to the doubting disciples. Luke twenty four, the thirty-sixth verse. Here, in the upper room, the eleven are gathered. They are discussing various things they have heard throughout the day, that make them wonder, where Jesus is!

“And as they thus spoke, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he showed them his hands and his feet” Luke 24:36-40.

That settled it, my friends, for everyone but Thomas, he wasn’t there! And you will remember, doubting heart that he had, as he heard the story, from the other disciples, he said, “unless I can put my finger right in the print, there where the nails were, put my hand in, where the spear went in His side, I won’t believe.” Christ condescended to give poor Thomas the very evidence he asked. In the next meeting, you will remember, He said, “Thomas, come here. See these hands, put your finger in, see this scar, feel me, be not faithless, but believing”! Thank God friends, those wounded hands, will, for eternity, tell the story of our redemption!

And now, come to Luke twenty four, verse fifty, and fifty one. And we get the closing scene of Christ’s life on earth, after 40 days, with the disciples. Eating with

them, traveling with them, speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God, the time of farewell, came.

“And he led them out as far as to Bethany, (which is on the Mount of Olives) and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted (departed) from them, and carried up into heaven”
Luke 24:50-51.

Ah, those farewell hands of Jesus. Can you see them? How the disciples watched, as their Lord ascended! He was still reaching out those hands in blessing. They heard Him say...

“...lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world”
Matthew 28:20.

A most beautiful description of it, is given in *Desire of Ages*, page eight hundred thirty.

“Upon reaching the Mount of Olives, Jesus led the way across the summit, to the vicinity of Bethany. Here He paused, and the disciples gathered about Him. Beams of light seemed to radiate from His countenance as He looked lovingly upon them. He upbraided them not for their faults and failures; words of deepest tenderness were the last that fell upon their ears from the lips of their Lord. With hands outstretched in blessing, and in assurance of His protecting care, He slowly ascended from among them, drawn heavenward by a power stronger than any earthly attraction”
Desire of Ages, pages 830-831.

Oh, what a picture of those farewell hands! But what did the angel say? What did those angels say?

“...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” Acts 1:11.

And friends, turn over to Revelation fourteen. You will see Him coming on the cloud. He has got something in His hands. Those hands which once were nailed to the cross, for us, are coming to gather us!

“...I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a

golden crown, and in his hands a sharp sickle” Revelation 14:14.

And what does the angel say in the fifteenth verse?

“...thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe” Revelation 14:15.

What is that harvest? Oh, it is you and me, God’s people, and so He is coming to gather us, coming to gather us. In His hands, a sharp sickle! Oh, I want to be ready, don’t you friends? The cry of the church goes up...

“Even so, come, Lord Jesus” Revelation 22:20.

Well, we have looked at the past, and we’ve looked at the future. In closing friends, lets look at Him, right now, tonight.

“For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us” Hebrews 9:24.

He lives to make intercession for us. And as He stands there at the mercy seat, He lifts those hands. Turn to Isaiah 49:16 I want you to hear His own words, as they come floating down from the most holy place, to us, tonight. Isaiah forty nine, verses fifteen and sixteen.

“Can a women forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me” Isaiah 49:15-16.

Oh, yes friends, those hands are uplifted for us in the presence of God. Volume Nine, one eighty nine.

“After His resurrection, Christ ascended to heaven, and He is today presenting our needs to the Father. “I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands,” He says. Isaiah 49:16. It cost something to engrave them there. It cost untold agony” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 9, page 189.

And so those pierced hands, still tell the story of our redemption. Do you remember, in Early Writings, one of those early visions. The servants of God saw the four angels, loosening their hold, on the winds of strife. Then she saw Jesus, stand at

the mercy seat, and raise those wounded hands. The picture is given us, on page thirty eight.

“He (Jesus) gazed in pity on the remnant, then raised His hands, and with a voice of deep pity cried, “My blood, Father, My blood, My blood, My blood!” *Early Writings*, page 38.

The four winds were about to blow, the merciful eye of Jesus gazed on the remnant, that were not sealed, and He raised His hands to the Father, and pleaded with Him, that He had spilled His blood for them. Then another angel, was commissioned to fly swiftly, to the four angels, and bid them hold, until the servants of God were sealed, with the seal of the living God, in their foreheads. Ah, my dear friends, well over a century has gone by since that vision. Are the winds still being held? Why? Oh, those hands, those wounded hands, are still uplifted in our behalf!

“Arise, my soul, arise, shake off thy guilty fears, the bleeding sacrifice, in my behalf, appears. Before the throne My surety stands, my name is written on His hands. There for me the Savior stands, shows His wounds, and spreads His hands”
(Author’s name not mentioned).

Thank God, we have a mighty intercessor friends! In all those hands did for us in the past, all they will ever do for us in the future, all of that, is placed to their use, tonight, to intercede for us!

Oh, I am so glad that I can put my little hand in one of His dear hands tonight, and walk with Him all the way! What do you say? Amen.

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