

Serving the Lord with What We Have

Exodus 4:2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Exodus 4:2**- "Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied."
1. God knew what was in Moses' hand.
 2. God wanted Moses to know what was in his hand without God and with God.
 3. The greatness of that staff would lie in what God's power could do with and through it.
 4. It was one thing in Moses' hand . . . It was an entirely different thing when in God's hand.
- B. All of the great works of God are done by doing our best with what we have.
- C. Often it seems . . .
1. Little things precede great things.
 2. We can never do anything at all until we do the little things first.

MOSES HAD A SHEPHERD'S ROD IN HIS HAND.

- A. **Exodus 4**
- B. Just a simple shepherd's staff in Moses' hand.
1. The shepherd's staff was good in helping Moses to herd sheep . . . God needed it to herd the nation of Israel.
 2. The shepherd's staff was good in helping Moses to defend his sheep against danger . . . God need it to help defend His people from Pharaoh, slaver, and idolatry.
 3. God was to conquer Pharaoh by the little shepherd's rod in the hand of Moses.
- C. At the command of the Lord, Moses' shepherd's staff became a magic stick capable of accomplishing God's will.
- D. The Israelites could not be freed by rising up as an army.
1. They had no commander or officers.
 2. They had no formal organization
 3. They had no training or experience.
 4. They had no weapons.
 5. But they did have a shepherd of sheep with a shepherd's staff led by the power of God . . . And that was enough to free an entire nation of people from the strongest earthly head-of-state of that day and time.
- E. **Little is much when God is in it!**

DAVID HAD A SLING IN HIS HAND.A. **1 Samuel 17**

B. David uses a sling and a stone to slay Goliath.

1. Israelite children probably played with slings and stones.
2. As a shepherd, David had used such a weapon against animals set on harming his flock.
3. David used the sling and stone and went confidently into battle with it because he knew that God's power was with him and his simple combination of weapons . . . On sling . . . + one stone. . . + one true God. . . = one dead giant (Goliath).
4. David fought in the name of God . . . This is always the path to victory.

C. **Little is much when God is in it!****THE POOR WIDOW HAD TWO MITES IN HER HAND.**A. **Matthew 12**

B. All she had is what she was willing to use.

1. You can't use what you don't have . . . But you can use all that you have.
2. Those mites represented her life . . . She gave all to God.
3. She used all that she had then . . . Use what you have now.
4. **Illustration:** "You know I have two hogs."

C. Her fame and her liberality has inspired others to give.

D. Power for Today devotional lesson . . . Tuesday, October 13, 2009 . . . Written by Calvin Bowers of Los Angeles, California

Can you imagine living to be a hundred years old? Think of all the things going on when that person was born. Think of all the changes that have happened since that time. Think of all the experiences that this person has had. It is an amazing thing to live one hundred years.

I clearly remember such a person because we have the same birthday. I will remember her most of all for her Christian deeds. Especially in the final years of her life.

She once told me, "I am not a rich person, all that I have is this little old house, but I want to give this check to have the nursery done over." She not only gave the check but many more to buy books to give to visitors and help many missionaries.

For her funeral services recently, she requested that a missionary whom she had privately helped, do the eulogy at her funeral. As the service began, he whispered to me tearfully, "I don't know if I can do this, because we were so close and she meant so much to me." A righteous life she lived.

E. What she had, she used for God!

F. **Little is much when God is in it!****MARY (sister of Martha and Lazarus) HAD A BOX OF OINTMENT IN HER HAND.**A. **John 12**

B. The breaking of her alabaster box was her way to let the fragrance of her heart be poured out upon the Savior of the world.

- C. The odor not only filled the house in Bethany but it filled John 12:3 and the world as well.
- D. The perfumed nard had value, yes, but it had great value to the Lord.

THE LAD HAD 5 LOAVES AND 2 FISHES IN HIS HAND.

- A. **John 6**
- B. The lad's lunch in the hands of Jesus fed the hungry multitudes, and no doubt the lad had more to eat than he had originally brought with him.
- C. Talents trusted in the hands of our Lord will multiply . . . Possessions trusted in the hands of our Lord will multiply.
- D. **Little is much when God is in it!**

DORCAS HAD A NEEDLE IN HER HAND.

- A. **Acts 9**
- B. Just a needle! . . . Just a needle . . . Just a needle!
- C. Can something as simple as a needle be used for God? Yes, it can when it is dedicated to sewing Christ into the hearts of the people.
- D. **Little is much when God is in it!**

PAUL HAD "ALL IN HIS HAND.

- A. Paul gave his "ALL" . . . his body . . . his money . . . his life . . . his all.
- B. Paul gave everything to Jesus and on behalf of his Lord gave his all in serving God's people.
- C. When Paul gave his all, he was not afraid of coming to want. He knew God would supply all his needs. **Philippians 4:19** – "And my God will meet **all** your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."
 1. Paul believed it for others . . . And he believed it for himself.
 2. **Philippians 4:13** – "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,"
 3. We can believe it too, for it is just as true today as it was during the 1st Century.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR HAND FOR THE LORD TO USE?

- A. Do you have
 1. Knowledge?
 2. Talents
 3. Time?
 4. Training?
 5. Skills?
 6. Money?
 7. A business?
 8. Authority

9. Willingness?
10. Determination?
11. Faith?

B. Commit unto God what God has blessed you to have.

CONCLUSION:

A. Many in the Bible allowed God to use what they had.

1. Moses – Had a shepherd's staff in his hand
2. David – Had a sling in his hand
3. The widow – Had two mites in her hand
4. Mary – Had a box of ointment
5. The Lad – Had 5 loaves and 2 fish in his hands
6. Dorcas – Had a needle in her hand
7. Paul – Had is all in his hand
9. What do you have in your hand for your God to use?

B. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**