

What is That in Your Hand?

Lesson Text: **Exodus 4:1-17**

INTRODUCTION:

- A. What is it that takes a tongue-tied shepherd and turns him into a powerful force strong enough to deliver God's people from slavery and Egyptian bondage?
1. How is it that one man with no particularly outstanding gifts or talents can be used of God to set his people free from the fear and abuse of their captors?
 2. Does God have similar plans to use very ordinary people today?
- B. God was not pleased to see His people living in slavery and subjected to dehumanizing conditions.
1. There was no United Nations or similar world body to voice one's protests and concerns to.
 - a. In a time of "might makes right," Egypt had the might to make their domination over the Hebrew nation "right" in their own eyes.
 - b. The selfishness of slavery was being allowed to continue by this world power.
 2. God looked for someone who would serve as the instrument of His deliverance. He found him on the backside of the desert.
 3. By way of parallel, God is not pleased to see His people in bondage to the ravages of sin today.
 - a. He knew of man's deed for a deliverer.
 - b. Man needed more than a delivered . . . He needed a Savior.
 - c. The Bible warns in **Romans 2:23** – "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
 - d. The Bible further warns in **Romans 6:23** – "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 1. We can defy God's Word, but we cannot defy His laws.
 2. The social chaos of our day is the result of ignoring God's moral law.

GOD CHOOSES TO WORK THROUGH AVAILABLE PEOPLE

- A. **Exodus 3:7** – "And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows."
1. Something needed to be done about their condition.
 2. God had great plans for them, but He wanted help. **Exodus 3:8** – "So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with

milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.”

B. Look at God’s call to the man He chose to help him. [Exodus 4:1-17](#)

1. Moses, a stammering shepherd, was given the opportunity to become God’s instrument of change for the children of Israel.
 - a. How could Moses perform this task?
 - b. The answer was . . . Use what you have.
2. All that he had was an ordinary rod and an extraordinary opportunity.
3. He did not have the gift of oratory. [4:10](#)
4. God told him that He would make up for any deficiencies. [4:11-12, 15](#)
5. God told him to take what he had. The only catch was that he had to be both willing and obedient. [4:16-17](#)

C. God did everything He had promised to do.

1. He gave Moses the words to speak in his many encounters with Pharaoh.
2. He provided Aaron to be Moses’ spokesman before Pharaoh when a more excellent manner of speech was required.
3. It was not Moses, but God working through Moses’ availability that brought change to the world as they knew it.

WHAT IS THAT IN YOUR HAND?

A. What was in Moses’ hand was not something that God had given him for the work, but rather it was something that Moses already had for the daily tasks which he had been carrying out.

1. What Moses already had, God would use it.
2. What seemed ordinary, God would make extraordinary.
3. God’s chosen people were in trouble and in response their needs and cries, God raised up Moses to assist Him in delivering them from their horrible bondage.

B. A parallel between Moses’ day and ours.

1. No one questions that God’s highest order of creation (human beings) is in trouble. We have become:
 - a. Slaves of sin.
 - b. Slaves of self.
 - c. Slaves to material possessions.
 - d. Transgressors of all that which is pure and holy
2. More and more we meet people who know absolutely nothing about God, the way of truth, and are not knowledgeable of His Holy Scriptures.
 - a. We have the opportunity to tell them that He loves them and has a plan for them.
 - b. We have the opportunity to reach children now so we will not have to rescue them from gangs, drugs, and alcohol later.

- c. Teenagers need to know that they can have a close relationship with God.
- d. Adults need to know that God sees them and has great plans for them.
- e. it is possible to lead our world out of the “Egyptian bondage” in which it finds itself.
 1. The peoples of our day can move from sinful living on the one hand to a meaningful life in God’s care on the other.
 2. Someone needs to tell them.
 3. Someone needs to show them.
 4. Someone needs to lead them.
 5. Maybe, someone just like you. A modern Moses, if you please.

WHAT IS THAT IN YOUR HAND WHEN YOU ASSEMBLE FOR WORSHIP?

A. It is a Bible. (Have everyone hold their Bibles in their hands)

- The Mind of God in print.
- The Holy Words of the God that the whole universe cannot contain, yet present and being held in your hands.
- We are holding what no **PATRIARCH** ever held.
- We are holding what **MOSES** never held.
- We are holding what no **ISRAELITE** ever held.
- We are holding what no **JUDGE** in Israel ever held,
- We are holding what no **KING** in Israel ever held.
- We are holding what no **PHARISEE, SADDUCEE, SCRIBE, or ESSENE** ever held.
- We are holding what no **APOSTLE** ever held.
- We are holding what no single **WRITER** of any Bible book or letter ever held
- We are holding that which the very **SON OF GOD** never held in His human hands while sojourning for some 33 years on this earth.
- This makes us (1) Very privileged and special; (2) Very obligated and responsible; (3) Very accountable to God for what He has entrusted to us.
- God wanted us to Have this Book . . . Hold this Book . . . Open this Book . . . Read this Book . . . Learn this Book . . . Commit this Book to both memory and life . . . Live by this Book . . . Teach and **share** this Book with all others.

B. It is a **SONGBOOK**.

- It’s words are to be sung with the mouth with meanings that are alive in the spiritual heart.

C. It is a piece of **UNLEAVENED BREAD**.

- It is a small piece of bread for remembering the big measure of suffering endured by Christ that led to His death for you.

D. It is a small cup of **GRAPE JUICE/FRUIT OF THE VINE**.

- In your heart it is a representation of the blood of Christ that cleansed you, and is available and powerful enough to cleanse every human being on earth.

E. It is a **CHECK . . .** or some **AMERICAN CURRENCY**.

- Before you give, think this: **“What I am about to give is a measure of my appreciation and love for you.”** Does your love and appreciation to God suggest that you need to change your gift to meet the measure in your heart.

CONCLUSION:

A. We must use what we have to the honor and glory of God.

1. The everyday rods in our hands may not be pretty or spectacular, but in the hands of obedient children of God, they can make a difference in the world.
2. You may feel like a tongue-tied shepherd, but in God’s hands you can be powerful.

B. Listening friend, God is looking for people who will let Him use them to assist Him in this world . . . Will you be one of them?

1. There are **songs** to be led.
2. There are **sermons** to be preached.
3. There are **Bible classes** to be taught.
4. There are **youth groups** to be guided.
5. There are **congregations** to be led.
6. There are **mission fields** to be plowed.
7. There are **good works** to be developed.
8. There are **neighbors** to be taught.
9. There are the **lost** to be reached.
10. There is a **God** to be glorified!

C. Oh modern Moses’, Take what you have and use it for the glory of God and for the accomplishing of His will in our day for our generation.

D. **“What is that in your hand?”**

1. It is my time . . . And my opportunities.
2. It is my education, talents, skills, and abilities.
3. It is my income and resources.
4. It is the business I own . . . It is the job and profession I am engaged in.
5. It is my family.
6. It is my faith . . . Father, help me to cast it down before the pharaohs of this world and let them see the mighty power of God and let them be led out of the bondage of sin!

E. **Illustration:** Little boy with no money to give took and stood in the basket to show he was giving himself.

F. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**