

What is that in your hand?

Exodus 4:1-5

(All Scriptures NASB 1995 unless otherwise noted)

1

What is that in your hand?

*"Then Moses said, 'What if they will not believe me or listen to what I say? For they may say, "The Lord has not appeared to you.'" The Lord said to him, '**What is that in your hand?**' And he said, 'A staff.' Then He said, 'Throw it on the ground.'*

So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. But the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand and grasp it by its tail' – so he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand – 'that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.'"

(Exodus 4:1-5)

2

What was in Moses' hand?

- **A staff was in his hand.**
- **A staff was used to...**
 - Show his credentials. **Exodus 7:8-13**
 - Strike the waters, turning them to blood. **Exodus 7:15-17, 20**
 - Bring forth frogs from the rivers, streams and pools. **Exodus 8:5-6**

3

What was in Moses' hand?

- **A staff was used to...**
 - Bring lice from dust. **Exodus 8:16-17**
 - Send out thunder, hail, and fire. **Exodus 9:22-24**
 - Bring an east wind with locusts. **Exodus 10:12-13**
 - Divide the Red Sea. **Exodus 14:16, 21-22**

4

What was in Moses' hand?

- Something as simple as a shepherd's staff was an instrument used in service to God, accomplishing many amazing things.
- Through this staff in the hand of Moses, God showed Pharaoh just Who he was dealing with demonstrating His almighty power and supremacy.

5

What was in their hands?

- **Shamgar** killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad. **Judges 3:31**
- **Gideon's 300 Men** used trumpets, pitchers and torches to defeat the army of the Midianites & Amalekites. **Judges 7:16-22a**
- **Samson** killed 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey. **Judges 15:14-15**

6

What was in their hands?

- **David** used "...a sling and a stone..." to slay Goliath. **1 Samuel 17:50**
- **Widow** put in "...all that she had..." **Luke 21:1-4**
- **Little Boy** had "...five barley loaves and two fish..." **John 6:5-13**

7

What was in their hands?

- All of these had something that would seem to be of little or no significance, but turned out to be of great importance!
- They took what they were given and used what was in their hands to accomplish great things.

8

What is in your hand?

- **Your Life**
- **Your Time**
- **Your Influence**
- **Your Opportunities**
- **Your Soul**
- **Your Destiny**
- **The Ability to Choose**

9

What is in your hand?

➤ **Your Life**

"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.' Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.' But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin." **(James 4:13-17)**

10

What is in your hand?

➤ **Your Time**

"Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, 'I have no delight in them'..." **(Ecclesiastes 12:1)**

"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, **making the most of your time**, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." **(Ephesians 5:15-17)**

11

What is in your hand?

➤ **Your Influence**

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." **(Matthew 5:13-16)**

"Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret." **(Ephesians 5:11-12; cf. Romans 13:12-13)**

12

What is in your hand?

➤ Your Opportunities

"Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were **faithful with a few things**, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'" (Matthew 25:19-23)

13

What is in your hand?

➤ Your Soul

"Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

(Matthew 10:28)

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds."

(Matthew 16:26-27)

14

What is in your hand?

➤ Your Destiny

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that **each one may be recompensed for his deeds** in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10)

"But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to **each person according to his deeds**: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation." (Romans 2:5-8)

15

What is in your hand?

➤ Your Ability to Choose

"If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

"Elijah came near to all the people and said, 'How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.' But the people did not answer him a word." (1 Kings 18:21)

16

What is in your hand?

➤ Your Life James 4:13-17

➤ Your Time

Ecclesiastes 12:1; Ephesians 5:15-17

➤ Your Influence

Matthew 5:13-16; Ephesians 5:11-12

➤ Your Opportunities Matthew 25:19-23

➤ Your Soul Matthew 10:28; 16:26-27

➤ Your Destiny

2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 2:5-8

➤ Your Ability to Choose

Joshua 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21

17

What is in your hand?

- What has God placed in our hands? Many things that are tools for use in His kingdom.
- Are we using them for His purpose or ours?
- Will we doubt like Moses, or will we be motivated to act?

18

What is in your hand?

➤ The Word of God

"The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. Other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out. Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great.' As He said these things, He would call out, 'He who has ears to hear, let him hear.'" (Luke 8:5-8)

19

What is in your hand?

➤ The Word of God

"Now the parable is this: the seed is **the word of God**. Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved. Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away. The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.'" (Luke 8:11-15)

20

What is in your hand?

➤ Are we sowing the seed, spreading the Word of God?

➤ "But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance."
(Luke 8:15)

➤ Are we those with "an honest and good heart"?

➤ Are we "holding it fast"?

➤ Are we "bearing fruit"?

21

What is in your hand?

➤ The Gospel of Jesus Christ

"...but just as we have been approved by God to be **entrusted with the gospel**, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts."
(1 Thessalonians 2:4)

"...according to the **glorious gospel** of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted."
(1 Timothy 1:11)

"O Timothy, guard **what has been entrusted to you**, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called 'knowledge' – which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith."
(1 Timothy 6:20-21)

22

What is in your hand?

➤ The Gospel of Jesus Christ

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and **acts on them**, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and **does not act on them**, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell – and great was its fall."
(Matthew 7:24-27)

23

What is in your hand?

➤ Are we spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ, "teaching others also"?

"The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to **teach others also**."
(2 Timothy 2:2)

"The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, **able to teach**, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will."
(2 Timothy 2:24-26)

24

What is in your hand?

- **Are we always ready to defend our hope in the gospel of Jesus Christ?**

*"...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being **ready to make a defense** to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame."*

(1 Peter 3:15-16)

25

What is in your hand?

- **Are we prepared for spiritual warfare?**

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ..."

(2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

"Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier."

(2 Timothy 2:3-4)

26

What is in your hand?

- **Are we fully armed for battle against Satan and his angels?**

"Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

(Ephesians 6:11-12)

27

What is in your hand?

- **Do we stand firm with "the sword"?**

*"Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**"*

(Ephesians 6:13-17)

28

What is in your hand?

- **Are we using God as our shield?**

"Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him."

(Proverbs 30:5)

- **Are we keeping the word of God?**

"As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, 'Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!' But he said, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!'"

(Luke 11:27-28 ESV)

29

What is in your hand?

- **Are we accurately handling the word of truth?**

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."

(2 Timothy 2:15)

- **Are we equipped for every good work?**

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

30

What is in your hand?

➤ Are we setting a good example?

"Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe."

(1 Timothy 4:12)

"...in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us."

(Titus 2:7-8)

31

What is in your hand?

➤ Are we exercising our gifts to the glory of God?

"Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."

(Romans 12:6-8)

32

What is in your hand?

➤ Are we exercising our gifts to the glory of God?

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality."

(Romans 12:9-13)

33

What is that in your hand?

"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."

(Colossians 3:17)

34

HOW TO BE SAVED

Hear the word

(2 Thessalonians 2:14-15; James 1:21)

Believe the gospel

(Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)

Repent of sins

(Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

Confess Jesus Christ

(Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33)

Be Baptized

(Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4)

Remain Obedient

(Matthew 7:21; Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 3:12)

35