Series: One Body One Body: Hands that Give

Dr. Les Hughes November 1, 2009

Scripture: Exodus 4:1-17

¹ Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you'?"

² Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied.

³ The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground."

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. ⁴ Then the LORD said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. ⁵ "This," said the LORD, "is so 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."

⁶ Then the LORD said, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was leprous, ^[a] like snow.

⁷ "Now put it back into your cloak," he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.

[°] Then the LORD said, "If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first miraculous sign, they may believe the second. [°] But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground."

¹⁰ Moses said to the LORD, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

¹¹ The LORD said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD ? ¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

¹³ But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it."

¹⁴ Then the LORD's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and his heart will be glad when he sees you. ¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. ¹⁶ He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. ¹⁷ But take this staff in your hand so you can perform miraculous signs with it."

Opening Questions

- How have you used your life for Gods glory?
- What challenge(s) have you faced from God?
- What gifts/talents has God given you and how have you used that gift/talent?

Discussing the Scripture & Life

- 1. What has God given us in our hand? (Exodus 4:2) What are some tangible things that God has given us to further His kingdom? (gifts, talents, resources) Do you find it difficult to identify those gifts or to use them for kingdom work?
- 2. Read John 14:23-24. How does this scripture speak to you? Does it say to obey some of His commands? Are there any commands that you struggle with and may have an issue following?
- 3. Matthew 6:19-21 speaks of not storing up treasures on earth. What treasures are you storing up? These treasures we have on earth are provided by the Father and are His and only ask for a meager 10% return on His investment in us. What can we do to give more to express our love to God and His kingdom?
- 4. Read Matthew 6:33-34. What are we doing to seek the kingdom first? What things do you believe will be given to you if you seek the kingdom first? What roadblocks are standing between your mission to seek the kingdom?
- 5. Have you a time in your life when you've received a large gift and were blessed by someone else's giving? What was your reaction to that gift? Were you compelled to share the gift with others or do the same in return for someone else?
- 6. Most people underestimate what the body of Christ can do. Have you ever under estimated God's power and his ability? Has there been a time when God's power and love has overwhelmed you or someone you know?

Closing Challenge

What can you do for the kingdom? What has God handed you (gifts/talents) to further His kingdom? How can we use these gifts to reach our community, nation, and world?

Last thought

Do what you can and leave the results up to God!