**WHAT’S IN YOUR HAND?**

 ***There Is Room In The Kingdom For You***

“What’s in your wallet?”

Most of us will remember the commercial for a popular credit card that has been running continuously since the year 2000. We can probably still see Samuel L. Jackson or Jennifer Garner asking us what credit card is in our wallet. The idea being that if we don’t have the one they are hawking then we are losing money. That, like all marketing schemes, is a bunch of poppycock. A simple internet search today revealed that the APR (Annual Percentage Rate) for that card ranges from 15.99% to 24.99%. Ouch! What’s in my wallet could be burning a hole in my pocket!

But there is another question every person should ask. “***What’s in your hand***?” That was a question God once asked Moses that shook his world and changed his life. But before we ask it I would like to read you a poem:

**What’s In Your Hand?**

Shamgar had an ox goad, Rahab had a string,

Gideon had a trumpet, David had a sling.

Samson had a jawbone, Moses had a rod,

Dorcas had a needle, All were used by God.

Moses was making excuses as to why he couldn’t lead Israel. Do you remember what God asked him? He said, “*What is in your hand*?” Moses showed him a rod and God then used it to work miracles to force Pharaoh to let Israel go (Exo. 4:1-5). Read it:

*​1 Then Moses answered and said, “But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, ‘The LORD has not appeared to you.’ ”
2 So the LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A rod.”
3 And He said, “Cast it on the ground.” So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it.*

*4 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail” (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), 5 “that they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”*

Moses took that rod in his hand and over the next few weeks terrified the Egyptian Pharoah and all the land of Egypt. That rod was used by God to lead Israel out of bondage, through the wilderness for 40 years, and to the brink of the Promised Land.

If you are a timid soul who has an inferiority complex about what you can, or cannot, do for God’s kingdom, the Lord still asks, “*What’s in your hand*?” But instead of looking for a rod, try looking for a talent. A talent is a gift (a skill or ability) used for God’s glory. Please read this powerful parable in Matthew 25:14-30.

Three men. The first with five talents. The second with two talents. The third with one talent. It forces us to ask this question: “*How many talents are in your hand*?” How many blessings do you have from God that you can share with others? Most will sheepishly reply, “I’m not very gifted, so I probably only have one, or at the most two.” If that’s true, can you name it (or them)?

Moses thought he was limited in his speaking ability and in his leadership skills. God had to show him, “*with God, all things are possible*” (Mk. 10:27). To one degree or another we all have a “Moses Complex” that sells ourselves short, limiting what God can do through us. Moses was telling God “I can’t!” The Lord was telling Moses, “But I can!”

Before you sell yourself short by telling God you only have one or two talents, sing the song *Count Your Many Blessings*. This hymn will hunt you down and haunt you as you “name them one by one” to “see what God hath done.” Hopefully you will quickly discover that you are abundantly blessed and have many gifts to share with others, all to the glory of God. That stirs me to sing the hymn *Room In God’s Kingdom*.

**There is room in the kingdom of God, my brother, for the small things that you can do.**

**Just a small kindly deed that may cheer another is the work God has planned for you.**

**Just a cup of cold water in His name given may the hope in some heart renew.**

**Do not wait to be told, nor by sorrow driven, to the work God has planned for you.**

**There’s a place in the service of God for workers who are loyal to Him and true.**

**Can’t you say to Him now, “I will leave the shirkers, and the work Thou has planned I’ll do.”**

**Chorus: There is room, there’s a place, in the kingdom of God for you.**

**There is room, there’s a place, there is work that we all can do.**

Have you found your place in God’s kingdom yet? If not, let me suggest you read Romans 12. In that glorious chapter you will find your place. You will find your talents and discover “there is work that we all can do.” Paul tells us that “*God has dealt to each one a measure of faith*.” We all have talent on loan from God. We all have different functions in Christ’s body. What is yours? What is in your hand?

Is your gift “*prophecy*” (i.e. preaching)? Is it “*ministry*” (i.e. serving)? Is it “*teaching*” (i.e. private or public)? Is it “*exhortation*” (i.e. encouraging)? Is it “*giving*” (i.e. financial helping)? Is it “*leading*” (i.e. leadership)? Is it “*mercy*” (i.e. caring)? Is it “*kindly affection*?” Is it “*praying*?” Is it “*hospitality*?” Is it “*sympathy*?”

If you can’t find yourself in that list then you are not looking. Most of us have two or more of these talents we can give to Christ’s church. If you need help discovering your talents then please ask me. I’ll be more than glad to first talk, then pray, with you about your place in God’s kingdom. In your hand are talents God will require at Judgment.

God has used ox goads, strings, trumpets, slings, jawbones, rods, and needles and placed them in man’s hands to glorify Him. God is now asking, “*What is in your hand*?” Instead of offering timid excuses, offer God your open heart and open hand. He has already put there a talent in which to bless others.

There is room in the kingdom, my brother, for the small things that you can do.

What’s in your hand? – Rick