

YOUR HANDS

Lincoln Park Baptist Church, West Newton, Massachusetts
Sunday, October 4, 1964

Introduction:

Have you ever stopped to think about the hands of Jesus? What were they like?

(1) They were healing hands.

a. The Bible says that Jesus, on finding Peter's mother-in-law with a fever, "*came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her.*"

b. At another place it is said that a leper came to Jesus imploring to be healed. Jesus "*moved with pity, stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I will; be clean.' And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.*"

Yes, the hands of Jesus were healing hands.

(2) They were blessing hands.

When children were brought to him, "*He took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.*"

(3) They were serving hands.

He washed the feet of the disciples at the Last Supper. "*He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded.*"

The hands of Jesus were used for healing, for blessing, for serving.

I. Your hands are a gift to you and they can be used for evil or for good.

A. Evil

(1) The hands of Judas. He had the purse. When he was sharing the Last Supper with his disciples, Jesus said: "*Behold the hand of him who betrays me on the table.*"

(2) The hands of the stranger on the train. He prepared his hands carefully for murder.

B. They can be used for good.

The story of "Praying Hands" by Albert Dürer.

"I can never give back the lost skill of those hands," he thought; "but I can show the world the feeling of love and gratitude which is in my heart for his

noble deed. I will paint his hands as they are now, folded in prayer, and the world shall know my appreciation for a noble, unselfish character. It may be that when people look at the picture they will remember with love and devotion, all hands that toil for others and like me, express in some beautiful way their appreciation for such beautiful service.”

II. The use of your hands is determined by the heart.

A. Judas -- the stranger on the train -- Lee H. Oswald.

(1) Judas

He thought to provoke Jesus to bring a political kingdom into existence.

(2) The stranger

Hatred for his father led him to strangle an innocent victim, to hide his crime.

He prepared his hands carefully.

(3) Lee H. Oswald

It took his hands to murder a president – in cold blood – without provocation.

His heart and mind were twisted, full of hatred.

B. Jesus – Dürer’s friend – the discoverers of x-rays

(1) *“The Son of man came not to be served, but to serve.”*

(2) Friend of Dürer –strong friendship

(3) The discoverers of x-rays – love for pure science; their spirit of service.

Conclusion

Your hands are the greatest gift of God to you. Use them to pray, to heal, to work, to create great art and letters, to serve others.

“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Look at your hands. Look at your heart.

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