

“In Your Hand”

By Mrs. Sojourner

“But ... but ... but ... how could God do great things through me? What do I have?” Unfortunately many Believers seem to believe God cannot use them to bring himself glory.

My question to those Believers is, “What is in your hand?” Let’s consider this for a few minutes.

1) There are possessions. Different people have different types and amounts of possessions that they offer the Lord for his service. One may have cash, another may have land, and another may have a few barley loaves and fishes.^[a] Whatever possessions you find in your hand (large or small) offer them to the Lord and just see how much glory he receives.

Something else we find in our hands is ability. Many people, unfortunately, do not think they have abilities the Lord can use because they are not great orators. Remember that our Heavenly Father, the Creator of the Universe, can use anyone and anything. If you bake



Notes:

^[a] Matt.
14:15-21
^[b] 2 Cor.
5:20-21

the best brownies in three counties, do it for the Lord and ask him who you can give brownies to, or who you can teach to make brownies. Seemingly ordinary abilities may be avenues through which the Lord will soften people’s heart toward him.

A third thing in our hand is our identity. God so specifically gave each person fingerprints that are so unique we can be identified by our finger/(hand) prints. Spiritually, God has put in our hand and our spirit who we are—the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.^[b] He has given us his Word to teach us how to know our spiritual identities and what to do in our spiritual positions as sons and daughters of the Living God. Our Heavenly Father has put greatness in our hands, so let us use them!

The Sojourner
Sojourner’s Fellowships
717-C West High Street
Manchester, TN 37355-1694

Phone: 931-409-1406
Toll Free: 800-391-6944

Email:
thesojourner@sojournershub.org



Sojourning

Vol. 7 No. 10 March 9, 2008

...with The Sojourner

“Looking For Change” (Teaching Sketch)

Mark 10:17-31



Jesus had just started to go to another location, when a certain young man approached him with a question which must have been burning in his mind. He was looking for change.

Jesus Took Time

Jesus, the one who made time, took the time necessary to encounter the young man to answer his question.

Jesus recounted to him much of the Law of Moses^[a] and the young man assured Jesus he had kept all of which he had been reminded saying, “All these I have kept since I was a boy.”

Encounter & Challenge

Interestingly Jesus both encounters the young man to answer his question and to lovingly challenges him. We know it was loving because Mark tells us, “Jesus looked at him and loved him.” Jesus was there with all who were there because of love. “God is Love!”

This was the challenge Jesus gave this young man. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

Notes:

[a]
Exodus
20:12-16;
Deut.
5:16-20

The Man’s Response

The man’s whole expression changed—his face fell. This demonstrated his attitude and beliefs. The next thing we learn is the man’s behavior due to his emotion. He left Jesus. He did not remain there with “The Christ” long enough to hear “The Blessing” of “The Promise” for following Jesus, all he heard was what he saw as loss.

The Blessing

Had the young man stayed long enough to allow Jesus to finish the lesson he would have seen that fear of loss would have been replaced by the joy of gain—gain of “The Kingdom” and gain of “The Blessing” with more than he could have ever possessed on his own. All this would have been his in this life and eternity! The young man’s desire to maintain control over his

Scripture:

Mark 10:17-31 (NIV)

¹⁷ As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

[a]
Exodus
20:12-
16;
Deut.
5:16-20

at his words. But Jesus said again, “**Children, how hard it is^[b] to enter the kingdom of God!** ²⁵ **It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.**”

¹⁸ “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹ **You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.’^[a]”**

[b]
Some
manu-
scripts is
for those
who
trust in
riches

²⁶ The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “**With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.**”

²⁰ “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

²⁸ Peter said to him, “We have left everything to follow you!”

²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. “**One thing you lack,**” he said. “**Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.**”

²⁹ “**I tell you the truth,**” Jesus replied, “**no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.** ³¹ **But many who are first will be last, and the last first.**”

²² At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “**How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!**”

²⁴ The disciples were amazed

“Looking For Change” (Teaching Sketch)

Mark 10:17-31

own life would not permit him to trust God. Lack of trusting God to bless is even greater in the rich because they are accustomed to controlling and maintaining more than the poor are accustomed to controlling and maintaining.

The Disciple's Concern

The disciples could not understand, having only heard part of the teaching at that point, how anybody could be saved. Jesus informs them, “**All things are possible with God.**” Unfortunately for the young man he was no longer with God. Jesus was left with just those who were with him to tell God's plan for this life and eternity.

All Sacrifice Rewarded

God rewards all sacrifice with a return of more than was sacrificed. Jesus informs them “**no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.** Jesus is the way of change, listen to his whole teaching and follow him.

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during “Praise & Worship” (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

