

THE ANATOMY OF A CHRISTIAN STEWARD

IX. Hands That Help

Ecclesiastes 9:10 and Ephesians 4:28

My grandchildren have the happy way of questioning me with their riddles. For instance:

* What did the digital clock say to its mother? ...Look Mom, no hands!!!

* If you have eight oranges in one hand and eight oranges in the other, what do you have? ... Big hands!!!

Well, no matter how many hands you have nor how big they are, the Bible has much to say about how you use them.

Through the centuries God has chosen to use hands that are committed to Him.

He asked Moses – “What’s that in your hand?” “Why Lord, its a shepherd’s staff.” God said, “Use it for my glory.” And Moses led God’s people out of bondage in Egypt to the promise land.

Samson, “What’s that in your hand?” “It’s only the jaw bone of an ass!” “Then use it for my glory.” And the Philistines were destroyed.

David, “You are only a shepherd lad, but what’s that in your hand?” “It’s only a sling Lord!” “Then use it for my glory.” And the giant Goliath was slain.

Jesus looks to a young boy and asks, “What’s that in your hand?” “It’s just a lunch – 5 loaves and 2 fishes.” Jesus said, “Let’s use it for God’s glory.” So He took it, blessed it and fed the five thousand.

In like manner God asks you – “What’s that in your hand?” And your answer –

- “It’s a computer skill”
- “It’s an artistic talent”
- “It’s a teaching ability”
- “It’s a farming knowledge”
- “It’s a large stock portfolio”
- “It’s a management ability”

And God says, "Use it for my glory." The need is great. The opportunities are everywhere. God needs your hands to help.

A well-known preacher, C. Roy Angell, told the following story that illustrates this. It is about an incident that happened in a little village in France after the war. A detachment of soldiers had been left as occupational troops to keep order in the town. Time hung heavy on their hands. One day they decided to help the villagers restore their bombed homes and city. They started on the church. It was a big job, for the church had received a direct hit. They worked joyously and cheerfully, cleaning up debris, putting back the windows, and rebuilding the pews. Amid the debris they found a marble statue of Christ. It was badly broken, but they managed to cement it together and set it up in its niche in the wall. But search as they would, they could not find the hands for the statue of Christ. And so when they had finished arranging the statue in its place, a moment of inspiration came to one of them. He made a sign and hung it on the statue. These simple words were printed on it, "He has no hands but yours."

In a few days God will say to you. "What is that in your hand?" And you will answer, "It is my commitment card." And God will say, "Use it for My glory." Your card and the commitment it represents is important to God, His church and you.

Before you turn in the commitment card ask yourself these questions:

- Would I be pleased to place this card personally in the nail pierced hand of my Lord.
- Would I be satisfied saying to Him, "This represents my love for you?"
- Would I be comfortable saying, "This expresses my thanksgiving for the sacrifice you made for me on the cross?"
- Could I say to Him, "This is a sacrifice. It is in proportion to what you have given me."

Lord, take my hands and let them be used to serve and sacrifice for You.