

What Is That In Your Hand?

Exodus 4:1-5 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The Lord hath not appeared unto thee. [2] And the Lord said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. [3] And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. [4] And the Lord said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth 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, hath appeared unto thee.

- The first three chapters of Exodus tell the story of a nation in captivity, under bondage to the Pharaohs of Egypt. Moses got so upset about it that he killed an Egyptian, then fled to Midian. Finally, God appears in the burning bush to give Moses the promise of deliverance. What is his reaction? “They will not believe me!”
 - God doesn’t promise deliverance without effort – He wants Moses to do something, so God asks “What is that in your hand?”
 - All Moses has in his hand is the simple shepherd’s staff and walking stick he has been using for forty years. He doesn’t think it holds much potential to bring the kind of deliverance God is talking about!
 - But before it is over, Moses’ rod will be used miraculously to ...
 - confront the magicians of Pharaoh’s court
 - turn the waters of the Nile River into Blood
 - bring plagues of frogs, lice, hail, and locusts upon the land
 - cause the waters of the Red Sea to stand up like a wall, then collapse on the Egyptians after Israel passed through
 - bring forth water from the rock at Horeb
 - bring victory to Israel in battle as Moses held it high in prayer
 - WHAT IS THAT IN YOUR HAND TODAY?
 - God isn’t asking for something in someone else’s hand
 - God isn’t asking for something you don’t already have
 - God isn’t asking for something impressive
 - God is just asking for what you have right now!
- What would have happened if Moses had refused to give God what was in his hand?
 - A nation would have stayed in slavery
 - Thousands of Israelites would have been killed
 - Moses would have never become a great man of God
 - WHAT DID GOD ASK MOSES TO DO?
 - Throw it down
 - Pick it up after God has changed it (that’s the scary part!)
 - WHAT IS THAT IN YOUR HAND TODAY?
 - Miriam with her tamborine
 - Little boy with five loaves and two fishes
 - Mary with her jar of precious ointment
 - Dorcas with her needle and thread
 - Widow with her jar of oil
 - David with his slingshot
 - Samson with a donkey jawbone
 - Shamgar with an ox goad
 - Widow with her two mites
 - Gideon with lamps, pitchers and trumpets
 - Israelites with singers at the front of the army
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