

Behold His Hands (John 20:19-31 -- 24-29)

"Have you ever looked at your hands?" Grandma asked of a granddaughter. "I mean really looked at your hands?" She slowly opened her hands and stared down at them. She turned them over, palms up and then palms down. She said, No, I have never really looked at my hands as she tried to figure out the point grandma was making.

Grandma smiled and related the following story:

Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years.

These hands of mine, though wrinkled, shriveled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life. They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots.

They held my husband and wiped my tears when he went off to war. They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent.

They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son. Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special.

They wrote my letters to him and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse. They have held my children and grandchildren, consoled neighbors, and shook in fists of anger when I didn't understand. They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body.

They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day when not much of anything else of me works real well these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer.

These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of life. But more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when he leads me home. And with my hands He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ."

Long before the beloved disciple, John, wrote these words, the Psalmist cried out, "*My times are in Thy hands.*" How true -- our times are in His hand. Our past, present, and future is all in His hands. Only God knows what is taking place in our lives, only God can change our present or

future. Maybe you fear this reality? Do you fear this truth? But this is a great, great blessing. **Let us consider Christ's hands...** the Word of God has a lot to say about the hands of the Savior, the hands of our Heavenly Father.

He Has the Hands of a Sinless Man... the God-man.

Christ could say, "*Which of your convinces me of sin?*" In action, word or deed, Christ never sinned. Pilate said of Jesus, "*I find no fault in Him.*" Christ's face was never wet with the tears of repentance; He met evil face to face and came out victorious. (Psa. 28:4-7) His hands were clean, but what about our hands. The message of the Word of God to us includes the following:

James 4:8 *Cleanse your hands ye sinners...*

In Psalms 24:38 we read, *Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord. . . who will stand before God, he that hath clean hands, clean heart...*

Acts 2:23 says, *Wicked hands have crucified the Savior.*

In II Timothy 2:8 we are told to lift up *holy hands....*

Oh, how often we sin with our hands, do things we ought not, use these wonderfully made instruments as "*instruments of unrighteousness.*"

He Has the Hands of a Servant: (Matt. 20:28) *He came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give His life a ransom for many.*

Christ came to minister -- He touched the lame, they leaped with joy. He touched the blind, as He formed clay He put it on the eyes of the one who was blind from birth and his sight was restored. He lifted up the impotent and told them to take up thy bed and walk. He took hold of the maiden, who was dead, and brought her back to life again. He broke the loaves and fishes and fed the great multitude and He touched the leper and healed him.

He came to save -- He put forth His **hands** to Thomas and said, *Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing* (John 20:27). He has the **hands** of a mighty Savior. Only His love for us could keep Him on the Cross. He paid the penalty of our sins, took upon Himself the judgment upon our sins. His **hands** were torn by cruel nails; He was pierced for you and me. Do you look upon those nail-pierced **hands**? Do you see HIM as your Savior and Lord?

He Has the Hands of a Keeper: (John 10:27-29)

Behold those hands for they are the hands of a Keeper. In Isa. 49:16 we read, *Yea, they may forget, yet I will not forget thee. Behold I have graven thee upon the palms of my **hands**.* In Psalms 37:23,24, we read: *The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in His way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholdeth him with His **hand**.* God is very concerned that we understand that He keeps us! No man, not ourselves, not any thing in this world can keep us! Even though our loved ones may desert us, He will never desert those who trust Him; He holds them up with the power of His hand.

In Psalms 95:7, again we read: *For He is our God; we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.* Consider YOU are sheep of His hand and IF you are His -- you are held by His hand. (John 10:27-29)