

The Hands of our Lord

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One can tell a lot about a person by their hands. Beyond the fact that our fingerprints serve as God's remarkable way to identify us individually, the very texture of our hands can often tell a story all their own. As a boy, this writer can recall my father's hands being very rough. The texture was a reflection of the work that he did. Whether our hands are rough and calloused or smooth and soft, they ought to serve as instruments of righteousness.

The goal of a Christian ought to be the continuous pursuit of imitating our Lord. As we do our very best to do so our hands will take on many different rolls; as did the hands of Jesus. Let us consider the different hands of our Lord.

Jesus Had Hands of a Carpenter

Jesus was in the family business. Like his earthly father, Jesus was also a carpenter by trade (Mk. 6:3). No doubt Joseph took the time to teach Jesus to provide for self and others (1 Tim. 5:8; Eph. 4:28). Joseph took the responsibility given by God to train his son seriously (Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4). But our Lord was much more than a carpenter; He was and is the "Master architect" of all that is! Jesus was in the beginning creating the world (Gen. 1:1). All that is was made by Him and for Him (Col. 1:16) and He continues to hold everything in place (V.17). Before His death, Jesus told Peter and the other apostles that He would "build His church" (Mt. 16:18). Jesus is the foundation of His church and the church of our Lord was purchased with His blood (Acts 20:28), established on Pentecost (Acts 2) and continues to be built upon today by those who build upon the foundation of Christ (1 Cor. 3:10ff.). The hands of Jesus are still building. He prepares a place for prepared people (Jn. 14:1ff.).

Jesus Had the Hands of a Physician

One thing that comes to mind when thinking of a physician is their hands. Physicians are very careful when it comes to their hands. Like the hands of a concert pianist, a physician must have hands that are extremely precise.

Jesus is often referred to as "*The Great Physician*" and understandably so. When asked why He would often dine with sinners, Jesus said to the self-righteous Pharisees, "***They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick... I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance***" (Mt. 9:12-13). Whether one was blind, sick or suffering from terrible diseases, Jesus often moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched the lives of others (Mk. 1:41). Jesus had the

hands of a physician because He sought to care for the spiritual as well as the physical needs of those around Him; ***"going about doing good and healing all that were oppressed..."*** (Acts 10:38).

Jesus Had Hands of a Friend

There are few things in life more precious than a "true" friend. Solomon said ***"A man that has friends must show himself friendly..."*** (Prov. 18:24). Isn't it difficult to make friends with a miserable person? The hand of a friend will be there to lift you up when the world is pushing you down. A friend will tell you what you need to hear and not what you may want to hear (Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Prov. 27:6). One of the best definitions for "friend" is the winning entry for a contest to find such. ***"A friend is one that runs in when everyone else runs out."***

With the view of His death ever before Him, Jesus said ***"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"*** (Jn. 15:12-13). Jesus not only died for His friends, He laid His life down for the world! Our Lord's desire is for people to want to be His friend but in order to do so one must accept and be willing to know and do the things He has commanded (Jn. 15:14).

The hands of Jesus have always been outstretched to the world. As the great song goes, ***"There was one who was willing to die in my stead, that a soul so unworthy might live."*** You can live forevermore because ***"God so loved the world (mankind), that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"*** (Jn 3:16). The hands of the Lord are reaching for you. Will you extend your hands to Him?