

**WHAT IS THAT IN THINE HAND?
(Exodus 4:1-5)**

I. The rod was for proof.

- A. The rod was going to be for Moses use in order to prove that he was from God.
 - 1. With it, Moses would do signs for proof (Exodus 4:17).
 - 2. He would use it to show that He was backed by the power of God.
- B. It was necessary because of the magicians that Pharaoh had.
 - 1. There is always a need for proof in today's world.
 - 2. There are and always have been false teachers (2 Peter 2:1-3).
- C. God has never sent out His people without proof that He was with them.
 - 1. There is too much at stake in the form of people's souls for proof to not be provided.
 - 2. Moses had the rod.
 - 3. Elijah had the fire of God.
 - 4. The apostles had miraculous powers which they used to confirm the words they spoke (Hebrews 2:3).
 - 5. Today, we have God's inerrant, inspired word (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

II. God can make things powerful.

- A. This was true of the rod of Moses.
- B. Shamgar had an ox-goad and God allowed it to be used to kill 600 Philistines (Judges 3:31).
- C. Samson had a jaw bone of a donkey and God allowed it to be used to kill 1,000 men (Judges 15:15).
- D. David had a sling and God allowed it to be used to deliver Israel from the Philistines (1 Samuel 17).
- E. Jacob had a shovel that God allowed to be used to dig a well that gave water for hundreds of years (John 4:6).
 - 1. There is no reason to believe that Jacob ever thought His Lord would drink from that well.
 - 2. Things we use now can be of great benefit to those that come behind us years from now.
- F. A boy had a small lunch but God allowed it to be used to feed thousands (John 6:9-13).
- G. Mary had a pound of spikenard and God allowed it to be a memorial for her wherever the gospel is preached (Mark 14:3-9).
- H. A widow had two mites and God allowed them to be used to teach a lesson we all need - do what you can (Mark (12:41-44)).

- I. God can take seemingly little things in our hands and make them powerful.
 - 1. We must learn to first let God use them.
 - 2. God won't and can't use things that we don't allow Him to use - that would take away from our free moral agency.
- J. Greatness in God's sight does not depend on the value or greatness of the object, but our willingness to let Him use it.
- K. Luke 16:10.

III. What do we possess?

- A. Our lives.
 - 1. No one but you can live your life and you are going to be held accountable for it (Romans 14:12).
 - 2. Our present and future lives are what we make of them and we will reap what we have sown (Galatians 6:7).
- B. Time.
 - 1. Time is something that is precious and never regained once lost.
 - 2. It needs to be used with wisdom (Colossians 4:5).
 - 3. As one once wrote, to waste time is to waste life, for that is what life is made of.
 - 4. We need to remember the words of Moses (Psalm 90:12).
- C. Our influence.
 - 1. Each of us possesses influence over others, whether good or bad.
 - 2. It will either bless or harm others (1 Peter 3:1-2).
 - 3. Our influence even lives after death (Revelation 14:13; Hebrews 11:4).
- D. Our children.
 - 1. If we have children, God has placed them in our possession to mold them into Christians that please Him.
 - 2. We are going to be held accountable for what we do with them, just like our influence, time and lives.
 - 3. What are we doing with them?
 - 4. Are we rearing them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord or are we molding them into worldly beings?
 - 5. What are placing in them as important?
- E. Our talents.
 - 1. We either use and increase talents or neglect and lose them (Matthew 25:24-30).
 - 2. Fish in Mammoth Cave, Kentucky, have gone blind because of their existence in total darkness, yet the same species in water outside have good eyesight.

3. One of God's laws is that if you fail to use your talents for Him, they will be taken from you.
 4. God is going to hold us accountable for how we use what He has given us (Luke 12:48).
- F. Our souls.
1. Each of us has a God-given, eternal soul.
 2. We can either save it or lose it.
 3. Peter told those in Jerusalem on Pentecost to "save yourselves" (Acts 2:40).
 4. Our souls are too valuable and precious to lose (Mark 8:36-37).
 5. We decide where it will spend eternity.

Sermon idea and material came from br. Leroy Brownlow's book "Great Questions Of The New Testament."