

=THE BODY OF CHRIST=

Lesson 1

The Hands of Jesus

INTRODUCTION: We are studying the body of Christ. We will discuss His hands, His feet, His face, His eyes, etc. The first lesson will have to do with His hands.

POINT OF CONTACT: Spend some time asking the pupils to list all the things we do with our hands. Then turn them to the hands of Christ.

I. JESUS' HANDS.

1. He is willing to touch us with His hands, Luke 5:13. Here He touched the leper. A leper was one who had corruption coming from sores all over his body. His body would simply wilt away. Joint by joint, parts of his body would drop off. Some lepers had nubs for hands, half fingers, and stubs for feet. They had to be withdrawn from society. As they walked down the road and met a normal person, they had to get off the road and cry, "Unclean, unclean." Yet, Jesus was willing to touch a leper.
2. He worked with His hands. Remember that He was a carpenter; hence, He was willing to work and use His hands in so doing.
3. He served with His hands. In John 13 we have the story of His washing the feet of the disciples. His were not lily-white hands. He was not the one who was served all the time. At the Last Supper He stood up, girded Himself with a towel, took His hands and washed the disciples' feet. He was willing to serve with His hands.
4. He had loving hands, Matthew 19:15. Here it was that He touched the little children with His hands. When the children were brought to Him, the disciples tried to thwart their coming. He would not allow it, but rather, He touched them with His hands.
5. He had healing hands, Matthew 20:34. Perhaps we should thank God for the hands that are healing hands today—the hands of nurses, doctors, mothers, and fathers. Jesus' hands were willing to touch the sick and help the weak.
6. He holds us in His hand, Revelation 1:20. Ah, what security! Picture a child walking down the street holding on to his dad's hand. If the child holds on to Dad's hand, the child could fall, but if Dad holds on to the child's hand, the child is secure. (Teacher: Illustrate this to the child.) Read John 10:28.
7. He has wounds in His hands. Zechariah 13:6, "What are these wounds in thine hands?" Notice John 20:20, 27. Jesus has scars in His hands where the nails and spikes pierced them on the cross for us. In His resurrected body He showed these scars to His disciples and to Thomas. This means that in His hands there are now scars. All of our scars will be missing in Heaven, but His will be shown, for it was by His scars and His stripes our sins were washed away. Hence, throughout eternity we will see the scars in the hands of Christ.

II. OUR HANDS. There are several things that God says about our hands.

1. We are to work with our hands, Nehemiah 2:18.
2. We are to have clean hands, Psalm 24:4.
3. We are to do God's work with our hands, Psalm 90:17.
4. We are not to fold our hands and be sluggards, Proverbs 6:10; 24:33.
5. We are to do the best we can with our hands at every task they find to do, Ecclesiastes 9:10.
6. We are to keep our hands from evil, Isaiah 56:2.
7. We are not to do things with our hands that would offend us. This means it is better that we have no hands than to do wrong with them, Mark 9:43.
8. We are not to accept the support of the works of the hands of others, but to work with our own hands, I Thessalonians 4:11.
9. We are to cleanse our hands, James 4:8.

CONCLUSION: Teacher, spend some time with your pupils going through the life of Christ, finding how many other times the hands of Christ are mentioned in the Bible and thinking of all the things that He did with His hands.