

## THE HANDS OF A SERVANT LEADER | PASTOR MARK BOFILL

**Intro:** In our two previous sessions on Servant Leadership, we covered *the Heart of a Servant Leader* and *the Head of a Servant Leader*. We learned that it all starts in **the Heart** (Rom 10:10) "For with the heart one believes unto righteousness..." but it must also manifest in **the Head**, (Rom 12:2) "...Being transformed in the renewing of our minds." – When the emotional and the mental are in sync, it should lead to \_\_\_\_\_...i.e., use of **THE HANDS OF A SERVANT LEADER**.

– **HANDS:** We use them in nearly everything we do! We use them to text on our phones and to wash dishes...we use them tie our shoes and even clap to show appreciation. They are special!

### – **WHAT DO HANDS \_\_\_\_\_ IN CHRISTIANITY?**

- **Raising Hands** to the Lord is a sign of reverence, honor, submission. (*worship*)
- **Laying on of Hands** is a symbolic transfer of power from a righteous person for the purpose of healing or blessing.
- **Clean Hands** represents innocence, as opposed to "**blood on hands**" representing guilt of a crime or murder, abuse of power (*cf. Isa 1:15*). (*Have you looked at your hands lately?*)

– **God Created Our Hands to DO THINGS and WORK to ADVANCE HIS KINGDOM!** God apparently thinks hands are so important that the word: **HAND** appears 1,466 times in the Bible, and the plural word: **HANDS** – appears 462 times.

*The Hands of a Servant Leader (then)...*

**I. ARE FOR \_\_\_\_\_** – When we are born again, our lives change... *we enter into serving our Lord as we follow His great example*. – The word **MINISTRY** is from the Greek word *diakoneo*, meaning "to serve" or *douleuo*, meaning "to serve as a slave." In the NT, ministry is seen as service to God and to other people in His name. **Jesus provided the PATTERN for Christian Ministry...**

- Remember, "**Jesus came TO SERVE, not to be served...**" (Mark 10:45), and He laid down His life (*If He is the Pattern, then we ought to follow it!* – John 15: 13, *Greater love has no one than...*)
- Jesus also He taught His disciples **the importance** of practically serving one another as demonstrated in (**tt. John 13:1-17; 14**), when He washed their feet! "*If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also \_\_\_\_\_ one another's feet.*"
- **As believers, we should learn to use our \_\_\_\_\_ to serve the Lord and others!** (*I.e., be willing and available to USE your hands in the Body of Christ*)

**A. Scripture has Much to Say about using our HANDS to Glorify God and Bless others.**

1. The Apostle Paul plainly states, "...that you may WALK worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being \_\_\_\_\_ I in every good WORK and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col 1:10)

2. In their Public Ministry, the Disciples went on to Learn, Practice and even Teach PRACTICAL SERVANTHOOD those who were committed to “the way.” – We see this especially in (Acts 6:1-7), when the **early church began to multiply, Growing Pains came along with it.** – When a **conflict arose** about food distribution, they were wise enough to seek out Seven men of Good Reputation, Filled with the Holy Spirit and Wisdom to serve over the matter of daily distribution.

- **HANDS were needed to SERVE \_\_\_\_\_, which MINISTERED to Others!** (Still Needed!)

B. Scripture Clarifies that \_\_\_\_\_ are not the only ones to be involved in Ministry:

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,<sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the \_\_\_\_\_ of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...” (Eph 4:11-12) – The Body does the work!

- **HANDS are to be \_\_\_\_\_ up in Ministry, to bring health and growth to the body!**
- From the early NT churches to the churches of our day, **every Christian should be “in the ministry” of helping others**, because the Holy Spirit has provided Gifts for service – **(tt. Rom 12:3-8)** *For I say through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. <sup>4</sup> For as we have many members in one body, but **all the members do not have the same function,** <sup>5</sup> so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. <sup>6</sup> **Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us \_\_\_\_\_:** if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> or **ministry, LET US USE IT in our ministering;** he who teaches, in teaching; <sup>8</sup> he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. (Are you exercising your gifts? – When you do...it Blesses others!)*

The Hands of a Servant Leader...

**II. ARE FOR \_\_\_\_\_** – A quick examination of **Jesus’ Hands in the Bible** shows us how to bless others. **As a carpenter** Jesus had rough hands, **in ministry** He had caring hands...

- At Bethsaida Jesus **spat in a blind man’s eyes** and used His hands to restore his eyesight.
- To the man with Leprosy, Jesus **reached out and restored** his flesh.
- At Capernaum he blessed and broke the bread which **fed thousands!**
- Jesus also used **His hands to rescue** a drowning Peter.
- Jesus **surrendered His Hands** to die for the sin of the world!

We may think we have nothing to give, but **WE ALL HAVE SOMETHING TO \_\_\_\_\_!**

– Our Hands can be like Jesus’s hands when we die to self! Only then can we meet... **Physical needs** (clothing food, shelter), **Financial needs** (through tithing and supporting ministries), and of course **Spiritual needs** (Sharing the Gospel).

– In **(tt. Rom 12:10-13)** Paul's tells us **How to meet Practical Needs** – <sup>10a</sup>*Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love...* Our **AFFECTION**, <sup>10b</sup>*in honor giving preference to one another;* <sup>11</sup>*not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit...* Our **APPLICATION**, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ *rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation...* Our **ATTITUDE** – <sup>12b</sup>*continuing steadfastly in prayer;* <sup>13</sup>*distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.* – **Our APPROACH**

**How do you use your hands to do His will?** Here are a few ideas that don't require you to go far from home or your home church:

- Serve as an usher or greeter
- Get involved in an area of service or ministry (Outreach) *Many hands make light work!*
- Volunteer for Sunday school or other youth ministries
- Participate in a Bible Study
- Use your hands to help with the Church Building/Grounds/Cleaning
- Help in a local mission project
- Share your faith with someone you know that does not know Jesus
- \_\_\_\_\_ someone to come to church with you
- Deliver a meal to someone in need or assist a single mother with a home project

**The Hands of a Servant Leader** **Work for God:** *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. (Col 3:23-24)*

**The Hands of a Servant Leader are to be** \_\_\_\_\_: *This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men. (Titus 3:8)*

**The Hands of a Servant Leader are to** \_\_\_\_\_: *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Cor 15:58)* (Say it in your mind... **"I Serve the most High God!"**)

**The Hands of a Servant Leader will be** \_\_\_\_\_: *For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister (Heb 6:10)*

**Closing Thought: (Psalm 24:3-5)** **Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?** Or who may stand in His holy place? <sup>4</sup>*He who has \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. <sup>5</sup> He shall receive blessing from the Lord, And righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

**(Matt 7:21-23)** *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' – Q: How does God view "the works" done here? \_\_\_\_\_!"*