



# SERMON NOTES

US N°. 145

Date: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Title: Use Both Hands

1. Review of the story of Lazarus
  - a. Jesus waited
  - b. Jesus wept
2. Broken lives and communities
  - a. The recent escapees; Exodus 17
    - i. Massah & Meribah (test & argue); Ex. 17:1-3, 6-7, *"Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, 'Give us water, that we may drink.' So Moses said to them, 'Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the LORD?' And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, 'Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst? ... Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.' And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'"*
    - ii. Amalek; Ex. 17:8, *"Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim."*
  - b. Israel oppressed by the Midianites; Judges 6-7
    - i. Idolatry; Judges 6:1, *"Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years,"*
    - ii. Loss of crops & fear for life; Judges 6:6, *"So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites..."*
  - c. The refugees from Babylon / Persia; Nehemiah 4
    - i. Idolatry & pride led to the exile.
    - ii. Sanballat & the Samaritans; Neh. 4:7-8, *"when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion."*
    - iii. No walls and no defense
3. Every hand needed.
  - a. Moses; Ex. 17:8-15, *"Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. And Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand.' So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with*

*Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." Moses built an altar and called its name, Jehovah-nissi [The-LORD-Is-My-Banner]"*

- b. Gideon; Judges 7:16-18, *"Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers. And he said to them, "Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, 'The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!' ""*
- c. Nehemiah; Neh. 4:17-18, *"Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me."*

#### 4. Our hands.

- a. God gives us gifts and anoints them for His purposes. (cf. Ex. 31)
- b. God gives gifts to all for His purposes. (cf. Mt. 25:15)
- c. Do not grow weary.
  - i. Heb. 12:12, *"...strengthen the hands which hang down..."*
  - ii. Job 4:3, *"Surely you have instructed many, and you have strengthened weak hands."*
  - iii. Is. 35:3, *"Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees."*
- d. Do not look back. Luke 9:62, *"Jesus said to him, **"No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."**"*

#### 5. Take-aways

- a. *"Dark chariots of bright grace."* Valley of vision.
- b. Times of refreshing are especially precious after difficulties.
- c. Oftentimes the story begins in rubble.
- d. The enemy will give no room
- e. Give all to intercession and worship; power of praise in warfare
- f. Boldly testify to the glory of the Lord
- g. Do all heartily for the Lord and the kingdom
- h. Strengthen those weak hands
- i. What is in your hands?
- j. Use both hands, keep your eyes on the road, and do battle.