

WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR HAND, JESUS?

- 1) What did Jesus have in His hand
 - when John baptized Him
 - when He sat a child on His knee
 - when He rode donkey into Jerusalem
 - when He was nailed to the Cross
 - when He appeared in resurrection body to disciples
 - when He ascended into Heaven
 - when He healed a blind beggar
- 2) Those who are familiar with these stories probably can't think of anything being in the hand of Jesus.
- 3) Most assuredly this is a trick question
 - what was in the hand of Jesus on each of these occasions
- 4) Whatever it was, let me assure you, it was not in His hand on every occasion
 - when the fig tree was made to wither & die
 - when Jesus drove money changers out of the Temple
- 5) But to show you what was in the hand of Jesus most of the time _
let's just look again at the time He sat a child on His knee _
- 6) Children love to lay the game "what's in your hand"
 - you switch the object from hand to hand, trying to confuse them—they try to pry your fingers open
- 7) That was the case in the story we are about to read
Mark 10:13-16
- 8) What was in the hand of Jesus—a blessing
- 9) A blessing is not always easy to picture or describe
 - *We sing "there shall be showers of blessing"*
 - *"count your many blessings"*
- 10) But all Christians agree, God's blessings are something we can't do without
 - something we can never get too many of
- 11) Sometimes it seems like we have to pry His fingers loose to get the blessing in His hand.
 - but that proves the point, we are desperate for His blessings
- 12) The pride of lost man convinces him he can build, buy, steal all the blessings he needs
 - but the Christian knows better
- 13) I have always wondered after reading about Jesus blessing the children, what was their specific blessing?
 - what did He ask be done for them?

- 14) Maybe there was no necessity for Jesus to be specific when He blessed children
- maybe it was a request in which he asked the Father to fill in the blanks
- 15) What is a blessing?
- something done for you—given to your
 - something removed—changed
 - something that is wanted/needed
- 16) I may Not always recognize something that happens as a blessing
- 17) God’s blessings are designed, timed, supplied as God deems best and appropriate
- 18) But more than anything else, a blessing is most often the reversal of a curse
- the cancellation of a curse
 - the untangling of a curse
 - the lifting of a curse
 - the destroying of a curse
- 19) Do you recall God’s words to Adam & Eve following the fall
- Genesis 3:17-19**
- ground cursed
 - bring forth thorns/thistles
 - bring forth tiresome labor
 - bring forth death
- 20) The earth God had declared “good” now under a curse
- filled with that which man says is not good
 - thorns/thistles symbolic of everything that brings man physical pain
 - including sickness
 - troubles, not blessings, would be the common lot of mankind
 - cursed earth speaks of wickedness man brings upon one another—woes, troubles, hurts, sorrows
 - speaks of insects/plant diseases
 - nature on rampage
- 21) It would require the constant goodness and mercy of God for man to survive on the cursed earth
- so even the unsaved and wicked receive benefits from the hand of a loving God
 - blessings required for man to make a living and survive all the curses earth throws at him
- 22) How curse is the earth from the fall?
- 100% - 95% - there is no way to answer this question
 - how much worse would every person be if God withheld all blessings from earth
 - did nothing to interfere with the shower of curses that could fall on everyone
- 23) Again we are unable to answer this question
- 24) But one thing for sure, “man is born unto troubles”
- no one escapes all kinds of curses during a lifetime—none escape death
- 25) I have good news for you who are Christians
- your life is more curse-free than what would have been if you were still lost

- 26) You have been placed on the Father's knee
- and time and again He has blessed you
- each of those blessings are for His children only
- 27) You will never know that your life would have been had you remained lost, but be assured
- it would have been worse
- what percentage worse—can't tell you
- but the moment you died—a 100% worse—ended up in lake of fire
Matthew 25:41
- 28) When you are faced with sorrows, troubles, dangers, tribulations, trials
- you are well aware earth is cursed
- 29) Only natural we cry out to God for relief, for strength
- but God sees the request as a plea to go into battle against the curse
- to destroy the curse/remove it
- to remove its sting, torment
- 30) And any time God responds by ending cause of our suffering, He could do so only by stopping the curse
- 31) Many of God's blessings are nothing more than a curse He knocks in the head
- a curse He lets bother you no more
- 32) This is not to say we will ever have a life on earth that is curse free
- God won't still every story
- hold back every affliction
- stamp out every problem
- drive away every heartache
- right every wrong
Such a life, promise is held out to us
- but in the next life **Revelation 22:3**
- 33) The greatest blessings found in God's hands are spiritual—
- pardon, new birth, son ship, resurrection, glorification
- 34) The lost are said to be cursed forever—100% curse—no mercy/blessings

