

“Binding The Hands of Jesus”

In Mark 15:1 we read how the enemies of Jesus bound Him in preparation for sending Him to Pilate:

“Immediately, in the morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council; and they bound Jesus, led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate.” Mark 15:1

As we read this, it is easy for our hearts to be filled with sadness, and even with a touch of “righteous indignation” for that crowd that bound Jesus in such a way. And yet, there are few today who are not guilty of binding the hands of Jesus in a figurative way! Let’s consider some of the ways we can be guilty today of binding the hands of Jesus.

1. By refusing to obey the gospel.

In His great love for us, Jesus stretched out His hands and died for our sins. Even today, through His gospel, He pleads with all to take advantage of His vicarious suffering. He does not want us to suffer for the guilt of our own sins.

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

His tender invitation is still being offered to everyone today. But, when one refuses to obey the gospel and accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior, he binds the hands of Jesus. Jesus cannot give such a person the wonderful benefits of His death! For him or her, the death of Jesus was in vain!

Is this true of you? It is, if you have not yet accepted the gospel by obeying the commands of Jesus. And if it is, then you will one day have to face the righteous indignation of Jesus Himself!

However, even those who obey the gospel can be guilty of binding the hands of Jesus. How?

2. By refusing to be transformed.

Christ’s will is that we be transformed. This transformation involves a renewal of the mind.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Romans 12:1-2

This transformation involves a literal change in how you think. Once you accept Christ, you are required to control your thoughts and make sure that all of them are pleasing to Jesus. (2 Cor. 10:5) This change in our patterns of thought occurs as we read, study, and meditate upon the word of God.

But many Christians neglect the instrument by which we can be renewed! We do not “receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” (James 1:21b) We allow

other things to take precedence in our lives, and in so doing, we bind the hands of Jesus so that He cannot change us.

Are we guilty of this? We are, if we neglect to study the Bible on our own. We are, if we fail to take advantage of opportunities to study with others. If we neglect the transforming power of the Word of God, then we are just as guilty of binding the hands of Jesus as were those who delivered Him to Pilate!

3. By refusing to pray.

Jesus became our high priest to make intercession for us with God the Father. (Hebrews 2:17-18) His sacrifice on the cross makes it possible for us to boldly approach God's throne of grace in prayer.

As our high priest, He is not only able to save those who come to God through Him, He "forever lives" to make intercession for us.

"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him since He always lives to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25

When we don't pray as we should, Jesus cannot be our high priest, our intercessor. When we don't pray, figuratively speaking, we have taken the "praying hands" of Jesus and bound them behind His back. What a travesty this is! Scripture clearly states that Jesus "lives" to intercede for us, but He cannot if we won't pray.

4. By refusing to do our part in church.

The church is described as the "body of Christ." (Ephesians 1:22-23) As His body, we are individually members of one another. As members of one another, we are to care for one another. It is through such "mutual edification" that Christ provides much of His help for the members of His body. But when we fail to do our share, again Jesus is bound.

Just as our physical head can do little if our neck cannot function, and the rest of our body cannot walk if our legs do not function, so it is with Jesus and His church. Jesus could do so much more for His members if only more of the members did their part.

Have you ever considered it this way? That by failing to do our part, we "handicap" the body of Christ? Because of our neglect, or apathy, or lukewarmness, the whole body of Christ suffers. Others are forced to do "double duty" in order to make up the difference.

5. By refusing to share the gospel with the lost.

Jesus made each one of us to be His hands in taking the gospel to the lost. Consider the following scriptures:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light . . .

" 1 Peter 2:9

In every case of conversion recorded in Acts, Jesus used a disciple to tell the good news. Jesus works the same way today. But to the degree that we keep the "good news" to ourselves, we

have bound the hands of Jesus once again! We hinder Jesus from telling others of His wonderful grace. Every day, countless souls die with no hope of eternal life. This need not be, if more would make the sharing of the gospel the primary concern in their lives. Sadly, in too many cases the primary concern of Christians is the pursuit of pleasure and acquisition of worldly treasures.

Jesus said:

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” John 14:21

God wants to pour many blessings into our lives through Jesus. But, we block these blessings by refusing to obey the commands of Jesus. Do you even know what these commands are? If not, you'd better start to seriously study your Bible. You are missing out on so much.

Yes, one does not have to literally “bind the hands of Jesus” to be guilty of the same sort of offense that we read about in Mark 15:1. But as we have seen, there are many other ways as well. We have given only a few of them.

We urge you, today, resolve to “loose the hands of Jesus” so that IN us and THROUGH us He may accomplish His full desire. That desire is:

- to SAVE us
- to TRANSFORM us
- to USE us.

Current Events in our Ministry

The Lord is continuing to open doors for us to evangelize here in Arkansas. Last week, Daniel was invited to go to the home of one of the bikers he has been working with for dinner. He did so, and they asked him to teach a Bible study on baptism. After the study, five of the bikers accepted Christ and asked Daniel to baptize them in the swimming pool in the back yard. Daniel did so. When the last biker was baptized, the Holy Spirit fell on him so strongly that he started to shout and dance around in the water. He shouted “I’ve got it! I’ve seen the light! I’ve seen Him!!” He was shouting praises to God and splashing the water so much that Daniel got out of the pool. His fellow bikers stool around the edge of the pool and watched him with open mouths, wondering what was going on. His joy and excitement was so great that he continued praising God for nearly 30 minutes. It all came to an end when, in his exuberation, he accidentally fell over into the deep end of the pool. He started flailing about, coming to the surface and then sinking again in a mass of bubbles. Suddenly his wife started to scream, “Help him, help him, he can’t swim!” Immediately, two of his biker brothers who hadn’t even accepted Christ, jumped into the pool to fish him out. Once he was out of the pool had had caught his breath, he testified to the other bikers that he had seen Jesus. His testimony had a great impact on everyone present. The movement of God amongst those bikers continues to spread.

Daniel has also become involved with several other people in this area who have a heart for the youth. Three weeks ago they held a two day youth revival in a town about 30 miles from us. On the first night 52 teenagers accepted Christ. On the second night, 60 more accepted Jesus. And, on the second night, a biker came to the meeting because he heard Daniel was going to be speaking. Afterwards, during the altar call, this man came forward and fell on his knees and accepted Jesus. He handed Daniel his colors and told them all that he would never again serve Satan. To understand the significance of this, you need to understand that when these you need to understand that when these groups of outlaw bikers join, they swear to wear their colors for the rest of their life. It is the most important thing in their life, their whole identification. He publicly confessed to murder and many other sins, weeping the whole time. His testimony deeply affected the teenagers who were present, and the Holy Spirit moved with great power amongst

them. Many of the teens then came forward and testified and wept and confessed their sins and accepted Jesus.

In all of this, the Lord has led us to two good tools for evangelism. We want to make these available to you. The first is a youth Bible designed specifically for teens and pre-teens. It contains the New Testament, but much more. It has a whole section written in comic book form that talks frankly to the youth about the things they face every day. Sex, drugs, etc. We have found that a teen is very attracted to this Bible and will read it before they will read anything else. It is a good way to get them started in studying the Bible. A little later, then you can get the whole Bible for them, but they need something to start with that they can understand and that will address the problems they face, with answers from God's Word. While Daniel was at the youth revival, he gave out over 100 of these bibles. He was amazed to see the kids, in the middle of all that was going on, sit down and start reading the Bibles. They were so fascinated with them. A number of parents have contacted us since to tell us how delighted they are to have their teen actually reading a Bible! They had never been able to get them to do so.

Youth meetings have to be held in a way that attracts youth, not adults. And, unsaved youth have to be included and invited, not just the kids from a particular church youth group. Daniel was at a meeting recently where the contrast was striking. Only the Christian kids showed up, and the speakers all spoke about things appealing to adults, not kids. Chaos and confusion reigned. A spirit of competition amongst the churches killed the meeting. There was no excitement. Only a salvation message was given to already saved kids. Nobody benefited from the meeting. Although refreshments were provided at the end, When the altar call was given, no one responded. Although refreshments were provided at the end, no kids stayed. Each one simply walked out with his or her church group and went home. There was no mingling or fellowship between church groups. What an example of how NOT to hold a youth revival!

The second tool is a Biker's Bible. It also contains only the New Testament along with many pictures and testimonies from bikers who have accepted Jesus Christ. Once again, it is only a starting point, but it powerfully draws bikers, (and kids) into reading God's word. We sent a Biker's Bible to a friend of ours who has a 15 year old son. She could never get her son interested in reading the Bible. But he loves motorcycles. She told us that since he received that bible, he has not put it down. He has spent hours reading it. We know that he will soon go to a complete Bible, but you have to have a way to get the Holy Spirit started working in a person's life. Many of the bikers to whom we have given the Biker's Bible have since come back to us asking for a whole Bible, which we have gladly given to them. They told us that they would never have started reading a whole Bible. The Biker's Bible, with it's colorful pictures and testimonies, got their interest and got them started reading. Then the Holy Spirit took over, and their hunger for God's Word grew so that they wanted a whole Bible. Praise God! There are many good tools available for use in evangelism. These are just two. If you want to look at one, or both of these, you can order them by the order form on the last page of this newsletter. Or, we will have them available on our web site shortly. If you decide you want to use them, you can obtain them cheaper by ordering them in lots of 50 or 100 or more.

I, Rebecca, just returned from a trip to London, England. I had the privilege of ministering to a group who all came from the Congo in Africa. About ten years ago, a woman in the Congo, Elizabeth Olangye, accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior. But, she became concerned because she wasn't receiving the blessings she read about in the Bible. She started earnestly seeking the Lord for the reason. Shortly afterwards, she came across my first book, He Came To Set The Captives Free. Through that book, and through her prayers and Intensive study of God's Word, she came to understand that she, and other Christians were continuing to participate in all their cultural traditions. These traditions are actually forms of witchcraft. God lead her to a knowledge of how to break free from the witchcraft and move in deliverance, so that His blessings could flow. Through her tireless work, shortly joined by her husband, Joseph, they have raised up a church of several hundred thousand people!

Their church is not only in the Congo, but throughout all the French speaking countries and communities of Africa, Europe and Canada. There are also several here in the U.S. About 2,000 people attended the convention there in London. They came from Africa, all over Europe, and the U.S. and Canada. Their pure joy and enthusiasm for the Lord and their freedom in Christ was refreshing to experience.

My books have been out of print in French for several years. A brother from this group is now in the process of re-printing them in French. He and another brother in Canada, are also translating our web site into French. (We now have web sites in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.) It is only as I travel and experience groups such as this one that I begin to gain a concept of just how great God's work is here on earth.

I ask for your prayers, because in November, I am traveling to minister in Nigeria, Africa. Because of Daniel's illness, I am forced to travel alone. I am told by the brothers arranging the meetings, that for part of the time, one week, I will be speaking in a large stadium to 500,000 people or more! My books are not so well known here in America, but in Africa, they are everywhere! I covet your prayers not only for a safe journey, but also strength, and that the Holy Spirit will flow through me in great power.

Our Convention Center

God is moving again, and we plan to start construction on our convention center next month. It should be finished by the end of November. It is so exciting to see God's work moving forward.

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Personal Counseling & Deliverance

Once again, we ask you to pray about helping us to move Pastor Bill woods from Oregon to Arkansas. He is coming to help me set up personal counseling and deliverance. I simply don't have the time to do this by myself. I worked with Bill for five years in California before marrying Daniel. He is a seasoned man of God and very experienced in deliverance and spiritual warfare. We really need your financial help to make this move and expansion of our ministry possible. We have literally hundreds of requests each month for personal counseling and deliverance. To this point, because of my busy schedule, I have had to tell these dear people that I simply cannot meet with them. Bill will change all that. Please pray about helping us!

Laughter

**“A merry heart does good, like medicine,
But a broken spirit dries the bones.” Proverbs 17:22**

King Solomon was one of the wisest men to ever walk the earth. He wrote these lines in the book of Proverbs. It is good to laugh. We need some humor in our lives.