

## "What is that in your hand?"- Exodus 4:2 - by Fred Quist

Read Exodus 3:1-14 and 4:1-5, 18-20

The Holy Spirit has one central ministry - drawing people to Jesus Christ and ultimately to eternal life with Him.

The process in short is given to us in John 16:7-11

Remember, the carrying out of duties pertaining to preparing people for eternity is given to ordinary people. We can be instruments that God uses to bring souls into a right relationship with Jesus Christ through obediently carrying out our everyday duties. 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17, and 3:23 bear this out.

In our Exodus 3 scripture the first thing we notice that God reveals to Moses is Himself. He is about to jolt Moses with a reality and task that would seem too much for Moses, As you read through this fast-paced remarkable account of Moses' presence in Egypt, and the resulting deliverance, note the times along the way where God reminds Moses "I am the Lord."

When it was all over, and the waters of the Red Sea had closed again, the Holy Spirit reminded Moses, and everyone, with the prophetic words in Exodus 15:18 "The Lord shall reign forever and ever." If you are facing a challenge, a test, do as the writer of Psalm 46 says - "Be still and know that I am God."

The second thing God reveals to Moses is the true heart of a father, compassion for His hurting children - Exodus 3:7. "I have seen the oppression of My people.....and have heard their cry....."

Two qualifications God requires in His servants - (1) Eyes to see - (Jesus said "look on the fields"), and (2) Ears to hear - "What the Spirit is saying to the church." Unless Moses caught this two-fold vision he could not, would not, become a deliverer.

The third thing God reveals to Moses is in verse 8 - "I have come down to deliver them...." (God always takes the first step).

Now the "bomb-shell" - verse 10 "I will send you." Now comes the age-old return - "Not me Lord" - verse 11 "Who am I...", the first of several excuses by Moses. Let me paraphrase God's answer to Moses in verse 14 - "*Moses, it doesn't matter who you are, it matters who I am.*"

Now God turns to the only instrument, and talent, that is visible, and that Moses was aware that he had - a rod, a stick for caring for sheep. Exodus 4:2 - "What is that in your hand?" Next God says, in effect, "Can I have it?" God saw potential in this simple tool if yielded to Him. And Moses did so. The story goes on in Exodus chapter 4.

In conclusion, please note the powerful phrase in Exodus 4:18-20 "And Moses took the rod of God in his hand", and used it mightily for God in the deliverance of His people. The power was not in the rod. No more than the sound of the trumpets caused the walls of Jericho to crumble. But obedience to the plan and purpose of God made the difference.

Let the things that are important to God be important to us. It will, of necessity change some of our priorities. Put value on the things that God values most - "I have seen; I have heard their cry; I want to deliver them."

God asks - "What is that in your hand - can I have it?"