

The Lakeview Lamp

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” – Psalm 119:105

April 5

2009

Mom’s Special Casserole

(Lessons learned around the dinner table)

Bob Brown

I have many memorable experiences of my childhood that occurred while sitting around the diner table. One such experience involved my mom’s special tuna casserole. I can still remember the first night my mom prepared this dish for us. She had made many casseroles for us before, but this one was different, and I immediately told myself that “I didn’t like it, and I couldn’t eat it,” even before trying the first bite. As I “turned my nose up” at the dinner that my mom had prepared, the expression on her face was one of hurt and disappointment.

Often times when it comes to our service to God, we decide that we can’t do something before we even try. Of course we have our excuses as to why we can’t teach class, lead prayer, visit the sick, lead singing, lead prayer, or teach a friend. But, for whatever reason, we make the judgment without really trying and convince ourselves that we can’t.

In Exodus chapter 3, God asked Moses to go down to Egypt to deliver His people. Moses, however, had “reasons” or excuses for why he couldn’t do what God asked him (see **Exodus 4:1; 4:10**). God didn’t accept his excuses. In fact, the scriptures tell us that God’s anger was kindled against Moses (**Exodus 4:14**). Fortunately, Moses overcame his excuses and went on to be a great servant for God.

What must God think when we “turn our noses up” at the things he asks us to do with the attitude that we can’t and so we won’t try? Is His anger kindled against us as it was with Moses?

By the way, I learned to like my mom’s special casserole. Not the first time, not even the second or third time. But I learned to like and even love my mom’s casserole, when I realized how “special” it really was.



"What Is in Your Hand?"

Troy Nicholson

When God told Moses that He was sending him to bring the Israelites out of Egypt (**Exodus 3:10**), Moses responded with a number of excuses. He questioned his qualification (:11), his knowledge (:13), his acceptance (4:1), and his ability (:10) – along with finally admitting his unwillingness (:13). While God had an answer for each of Moses' excuses, one of His answers involved something that Moses possessed. God asked him, "*What is that in your hand?*", in reference to Moses' staff (4:2). He then demonstrated to Moses what he could do – with God's help – with that staff (:3-4). After Moses ran out of excuses, God again reminded him of what he had in his hand and told him to take it and go (:17).

What was so special about that staff? It was probably just your typical shepherd's staff, but Moses had most likely used it for some time and grown comfortable with using it as a shepherd. God told Moses to take that with which he was familiar and put it to use for the Lord. He had used it to lead his father-in-law's sheep; and now he was to use it to lead his heavenly Father's sheep, the Israelites.

What was in David's hand? To most it was just an ordinary sling, but to David it was something in which he had confidence. He probably practiced with it while he was in the field and used it to defend the sheep against wild animals (**1 Samuel 17:34**). When the opportunity arose, he accepted the challenge to use it against a giant enemy of the Lord's people (:26,32, 40-51).

What was in the hand of the lad on the mountain? Only "*five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?*" (**John 6:3-9**). Yet that tiny amount of food became tremendous when it was given to the Lord (:10-13).

What was in the hand of Dorcas? A simple needle and thread, but with her God-given ability they became a room full of "*tunics and garments*" (**Acts 9:39**). She used what was in her hand in such a way that she was described as a woman "*abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did*" (:36).

We all have something in our hand. We all have some product or service, some ability or talent, that we can use in service to God. Maybe God has blessed you financially so that you may "*be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share*" (**1 Timothy 6:17-19**). You may be

News and Notes

- * The teaching seminar with Ken Weliever has been rescheduled for May 1-3. Mark your calendars and plan to be here.

Members:

- * Estelle Hayes is having problems with her legs swelling.
- * Cotton Read went back to the doctor last week and is doing better now.

Friends and Family:

- * Burton Brown, **Bonnie Brown's brother, has cancer in his brain. He is** undergoing radiation treatments.
- * Nancy Dyes, daughter of Fran Pickens and sister of Connie Cobern, died last week. Her memorial service was yesterday.
- * **Chris Gertsch's sister-in-law** had a baby last week, making him a proud uncle.

Absent: Holt family.

New Reports: Gary Hunt (NY).

gifted like Dorcas with the ability to use your hands in service to others. It may be by using a needle and thread, a mower and trimmer, or something else. Can you use a pen and paper or a computer and e-mail to drop someone a note of encouragement? God has told us to teach lost souls the gospel so that they may be delivered from sin, and He has placed a Bible within our hands to guide us in that task. Do we believe in its power and use as we should?

What is in your hand? Are you using it for the Lord?



“To You I shall offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and call upon the name of the LORD.” – Psalm 116:17