

Binding the Hands of Jesus

Introduction:

- A. Text: Mk.15:1– We read here of how the enemies of Jesus bound like a common criminal.
- B. Sadly, there are few today who are not guilty of binding the hands of Jesus in a “figurative” way!
- C. When someone begs us to intervene on their behalf, sometimes we have to say, “I’m sorry, but my hands are tied! There’s nothing I can do about it.”
- D. In our lesson today we want to consider some of the ways in which we can tie the hands of Jesus, keeping Him from doing what wants to do and is able to do for us.

We Tie the Hands of Jesus by Refusing to...

I. Obey the Gospel.

- A. **In His Love for Us, Jesus Stretched out His Hands and Died for Our Sins.**
 - 1. He pleads with all to take advantage of His suffering by obeying the gospel and receiving the benefits secured at the cross through His death.
 - 2. He doesn’t want us to suffer for the guilt of our own sins.
 - 3. In truth, His invitation of Matt.11:28-30 is still being offered today.
- B. **But When One Refuses to Obey the Gospel...**
 - 1. The hands of Jesus are bound!
 - 2. No matter how much Jesus wants you to be saved from the consequences of your sins, if you refuse to obey the commands of the gospel, His hands are tied and there is nothing He can do.
- C. **Is this True of You?**
 - 1. It is if you have not accepted the gospel message and obeying the commands contained there.
 - a. cf.Mk.16:15,16; Acts 2:38.
 - 2. If it is true of you, then you will one day face the righteous indignation of Jesus – 2 Thess.1:7-9.
- D. Even those who obey the gospel can be guilty of tying the hands of Jesus.
 - 1. How? One way is by refusing to...

II. Be Transformed.

- A. **Christ’s Will Is That We Be Transformed...**
 - 1. This transformation involves a renewal of the mind – Rom.12:1,2; Eph.4:20-24.
 - 2. Our minds are to be renewed until we have developed the mind of Christ – Rom.8:29.
 - 3. This renewal occurs as we read, study, and meditate upon the Word – 1 Pet.1:23-2:2; Phil.4:8.
- B. **But Many Christians Neglect the Instrument by Which We Can Be Renewed!**
 - 1. We do not “...receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls” – Jas.1:21b.
 - 2. We say that we want to have the mind of Christ but then we allow other things to take precedence in our lives so that we don’t have time for His word, and by so doing we tie the hands of Jesus: we create circumstances which will not allow Jesus to change our hearts through His word.
- C. **Are We Guilty of This?**
 - 1. We are, if we neglect to study the Bible on our own!
 - 2. We are, if we fail to take advantage of opportunities to study with others!
- D. We can also be guilty of tying the hands of Jesus by failing to...

III. Pray.

- A. **Jesus Has Become Our “High Priest.”**
 - 1. He became man for this purpose – Heb.2:17,18.
 - 2. He made it possible for us to approach God’s throne of grace in prayer – Heb.4:14-16; 7:25.
- B. **When We Don’t Pray as We Should...**
 - 1. Jesus cannot be our High Priest, our intercessor!
 - 2. Figuratively speaking, we have taken His “praying hands” and “bound” them behind His back!
- C. **Are We Doing This?**
 - 1. If so, what a travesty this is!
 - 2. For here is Jesus who “lives” to intercede for us, but can’t, because of our failure to pray!
- D. There is yet another way to be guilty of tying the hands of Jesus, by refusing to...

IV. Do Our Part in the Church.

- A. **The Church Is Described as the “Body of Christ”** – cf.Eph.1:22,23.
 - 1. As His body, we are individually members of one another – 1 Cor.12:27.
 - 2. As members of one another, we are to care for one another – Eph.4:15,16.
 - 3. It is through such “mutual edification” that Christ provides much of His help for the members of His body! – cf.2 Cor.1:3-7.
- B. **But When We Fail to Do Our Share, Again Jesus Is “Bound”!**
 - 1. Our physical head can do little if our bodily members fail to follow its leading.
 - 2. Likewise, Jesus could do so much more if only more of the members did THEIR part!
- C. **Have You Ever Considered it this Way?**
 - 1. That by failing to do your part, you “handicap” the body of Christ?
 - 2. That because of your neglect, or apathy, or lukewarmness, either the whole body of Christ suffers, or others are forced to do “double duty” in order to make up the difference?
- D. Yes, there are many ways we can be guilty of tying the hands of Jesus.
 - 1. But consider just one more, by failing to...

V. Share the Gospel with the Lost.

- A. **Jesus Made His Disciples to Be His “Hands” in Spreading the Gospel.**
 - 1. Matt.28:19,20; Mk.16:15,16; 1 Pet.2:9.
 - 2. In every case of conversion recorded in Acts, Jesus used a disciple to tell the good news.
 - 3. Jesus works the same way today!
- B. **But to the Degree That We Keep the “Good News” to Ourselves...**
 - 1. We have tied the hands of Jesus once again!
 - 2. We hinder Jesus from telling others of His wonderful grace!
- C. **Are We “Binding the Hands of Jesus” in this Way?**
 - 1. Every day, countless souls die with no hope of eternal life.
 - 2. This need not be, if more would make sharing of the gospel the primary concern in their lives!

Conclusion:

- A. Why not today resolve to loose the hands of Jesus so that **IN** us and **THROUGH** us He may accomplish His full desire? Which is...
 - 1. To SAVE us!
 - 2. To TRANSFORM us!
 - 3. To USE us!