

Binding The Hands Of Jesus

No. 258

Introduction.

I. Mark records these words about the trial of Jesus before the Jewish Sanhedrin in Mark the 14th chapter. (Mk. 14:55-65).

55 Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus to put Him to death; and they were not finding any. 56 For many were giving false testimony against Him, and yet their testimony was not consistent. 57 And some stood up and began to give false testimony against Him, saying, 58 "We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.'" 59 And not even in this respect was their testimony consistent. 60 And the high priest stood up and came forward and questioned Jesus, saying, "Do You make no answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?" 61 But He kept silent, and made no answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" 62 And Jesus said, "I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." 63 And tearing his clothes, the high priest said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? 64 "You have heard the blasphemy; how does it seem to you?" And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death. 65 And some began to spit at Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him with their fists, and to say to Him, "Prophecy!" And the officers received Him with slaps in the face.

II. Following this illegal trial before the Sanhedrin, held late at night, Mark records these words in the 15th chapter of his gospel.

1 And early in the morning the chief priests with the elders and scribes, and the whole Council, immediately held a consultation; and binding Jesus, they led Him away, and delivered Him up to Pilate. 2 And Pilate questioned Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" And answering He said to him, "It is as you say." 3 And the chief priests began to accuse Him harshly. 4 And Pilate was questioning Him again, saying, "Do You make no answer? See how many charges they bring against You!" 5 But Jesus made no further answer; so that Pilate was amazed.

A. **From this reading I call your attention to what Mark writes in Mark 15:1.** We read that they bound Jesus and led Him away to be tried before the Roman governor Pilate.

B. As we read this account, it is easy for our hearts to be filled with sadness and even anger by the shameful way they treated Jesus. The Son of God was bound like a common criminal.

II. **It may come as a shock to many today,** but many today are guilty of doing the same thing to Jesus. In a figurative way many are binding the hands of Jesus.

I. **By Refusing To Obey The Gospel** - We bind the hands of Jesus by refusing to obey the gospel.

A. The gospel is to be preached to the whole world. (Mk. 16:15).

1. The gospel is “the power of God unto salvation.” (Rom. 1:16).

2. The gospel tells us of the great love of God and Christ. (Jn. 3:16; 15:13).

B. **Today Jesus pleads with us, through the gospel,** to take advantage of His vicarious suffering.

1. He does not want us to suffer the guilt and condemnation of our sins.

2. He wants to forgive us and calls us to come to Him. (Matt. 11:28-30).

C. **Yes, Jesus is calling us through the gospel to come to Him, but when we refuse to come to Him we are binding the hands of Jesus.**

1. He is helpless to save us with His tender loving hands if we reject Him and His gospel.

2. There is no other way for a person to be saved other than by obeying Christ and the gospel.

II. **By Refusing To Be Transformed** - We bind the hands of Jesus by refusing to be transformed.

A. Christ’s will is that we be transformed into His likeness.

1. This transformation involves **a changing or renewing of our minds.** (Rom. 12:1,2).

2. This transformation comes when we read, study, and meditate upon the word of God.

3. This transformation comes when we put our thinking into action.

B. **But many of us, as 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 our souls.” (Jas. 1:21).

2. When we neglect private Bible study, when we neglect Bible classes and when we neglect to take advantage of other opportunities to study the Bible, we are guilty of binding the hands of Jesus and are just as guilty as those who bound the hands of Jesus back in the 1st century.

III. **By Refusing To Pray** - We bind the hands of Jesus by refusing to pray.

A. Jesus has become our high priest that we might pray. (Heb. 2:17, 18).

17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For since He Himself

was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

B. Jesus made it possible for us to boldly approach God's throne of grace in prayer. (Heb. 4:14-16).

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

C. As our high priest **He is able to save those who come to God through Him.** (Heb. 7:25a). He ever lives to make intercession for us. (Heb. 7:25b).

D. **But when we fail to pray or pray as we should, Christ cannot be our High Priest.** He cannot be our intercessor. He cannot obtain forgiveness and peace and joy for us.

1. **Figuratively speaking** when we fail to pray, we have taken the "praying hands" of Jesus and bound them.
2. **It is sad** that so many bind the hands of Jesus and keep Him from bringing the blessings of heaven down on us.

IV. **By Refusing to Do Our Part In The Church** - We bind the hands of Jesus by refusing to do our part in the church.

A. **The church is the body of Christ and Christ is the head.** (Col. 1:18).

1. The Bible teaches us that Christ loved the body so much that Christ died for it. (Eph. 5:25).
2. The Bible teaches us that Christ wants to bless His body not only in the world to come, but here and now.
3. The Bible teaches us that Christ does this through us. We want us to love and care for one another.

B. **But when we fail to help one another and share with one another, we "bind the hands of Jesus."**

1. **Jesus could do so much more for the members of His body**, if only more of the members did their part. **He could do so much more for the world**, if only more of the members did their part.
2. The body of Christ and the world suffers and loses great blessings because we bind the hands of Jesus by our neglect, apathy, and lukewarmness.

V. **By Refusing To Help Wounded People** - We bind the hands of Jesus by refusing to help wounded people.

A. Christ had loving hands that wanted to reach out to wounded people.

B. **But Christ is now in heaven.**

1. His hands are now our hands.
2. If we refuse to help others we are binding the loving hands of Jesus.

C. **During the Vietnam War**, a certain nurse was the subject of much discussion. After a battle she would

wander away from the medical camp onto the battlefield itself. Sometimes she would personally drag in a soldier who was in desperate need of medical attention. More than once she was reprimanded by the doctors. They told her she had no business on the battlefield. Not only that, she even brought in Vietcong soldiers along with the Americans. One day after a big battle an officer saw her on the battlefield amid all the suffering, dying and death. He began to rebuke her, "What are you doing on that battlefield?" She said without hesitation, "I'm looking for the wounded. That's what I am here for."

1. **This woman was doing what we should be doing.** We are to be looking for the wounded people of the world.
 - a. **When we were saved Christ could have instantly taken all of us to heaven,** but He didn't. He left us here to look for wounded and needy people of all kinds.
 - b. He wants us to go out into the battlefields of this world and find the wounded and help them and bind up their wounds.
2. **May we never bind the hands of Jesus by refusing to look for and help those in need.**

VI. **By Refusing To Share The Gospel With The Lost** - We bind the hands of Jesus by refusing to share the gospel with the lost.

A. Jesus has made His disciples to be His "hands" in taking the gospel to the lost.

1. Jesus said. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Mk. 16:15; Acts 1:8).
 - a. In the books of Acts we read of the apostles and early Christians sharing the gospel with the lost.
 - b. In every case of conversion recorded in the books of Acts, Jesus used a disciple to tell the good news to the lost.
2. **Jesus works the same way today.** He works through us as His hands and feet.

B. **But if we keep the "good news" of Christ to ourselves,** we bind the hands of Jesus once again. We hinder Jesus from telling others of His great love and grace.

1. This is often caused by the fact we are too concerned with the pursuit of pleasure and acquiring worldly treasures. We are more concerned with these things than we are the pursuit of lost souls.
2. **Winning souls was the number one priority of Jesus** and it must be our number one priority. We have been redeemed to rescue the perishing.

Conclusion.

- I. It is clear from this lesson that one does not have to literally bind the hands of Jesus to be guilty of binding His hands.
- II. Let us resolve today to "loose the hands of Jesus" so that God may be glorified and countless souls may be won to Christ.

III. **Let us resolve today to leave this building a Christian.**

A. Come to Christ who died for you on the cross. Come to Him and confess His glorious name. Die to sin and be buried in baptism as a confirmation of that death and for the forgiveness of your sins.

B. Come now as we stand and sing.

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