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ARE YOU IN GOOD HANDS? LUKE 23:46

OVERVIEW:

IN THE 1933 INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT HE DECLARED: "UNCERTAINTY WILL NOT RULE OUR LIVES WHEN WE PUT OUR LIVES IN **GOOD HANDS**."

THERE ARE QUITE A FEW USAGES/PHRASES THAT RELATE TO THE HANDS ... IDLE HANDS, TWO HANDS, GIFTED HANDS, THE HANDS OF FATE, IN GOD'S HANDS, IN ENEMY HANDS, IN YOUR HANDS, SHOW OF HANDS, HEAVY HANDS, HANDS UP! HANDS THAT SEE, HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER, HANDS OVER THE CITY, IN OUR OWN HANDS, ARMED HANDS, HANDS DOWN, WITH THESE HANDS, IN THE WRONG HANDS, AND IN **GOOD HANDS**. THE FUNCTIONS OF THE HAND ARE TO HELP, TO ASSIST, TO GUIDE, TO GRASP, TO HOLD, AND TO MANIPULATE PEOPLE AND ITEMS.

WHEN YOU POSSESS SOMETHING OF VALUE AND WORTH, YOU JUST DON'T LEAVE IT WITH ANYONE OR LEAVE IT ANYWHERE! YOU ARE GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT THE PERSON YOU LEFT IT WITH IS TRUSTWORTHY, RESPONSIBLE, DEPENDABLE, HONEST, ATTENTIVE AND RELIABLE. JESUS HAD THE ASSURANCE THAT IF HE PLACED HIS SPIRIT IN HIS FATHER'S HANDS, EVERYTHING WOULD BE ALL RIGHT. HE COMMENDED HIS SPIRIT BACK INTO THE HANDS FROM WHENCE IT CAME. IN OTHER WORDS, HE PUT IT IN **GOOD HANDS**!



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HE KNEW THAT DURING THE DARKEST TIME OF HIS LIFE WHEN THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS HAD CONSPIRED TO DESTROY HIM AND HE WAS BETRAYED, BEATEN, BRUISED AND BOUND TO AN OLD RUGGEDD CROSS, HE HAD THE ASSURANCE THAT HIS FATHER WAS THERE AND WOULD COME TO HIS RESCUE! THUS, HE FELT CONFIDENT PLACING HIS SPIRIT INTO THE HANDS OF HIS FATHER!

THE QUESTION I'D LIKE TO POSE TO YOU IS, "**ARE YOU IN GOOD HANDS?**"

I MENTIONED EARLIER THAT JESUS HAD **ASSURANCE** NOT **INSURANCE** THAT HE WAS IN **GOOD HANDS** BECAUSE HE WAS IN THE FATHER'S HANDS! LET ME SHARE THE DISTINCT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "INSURANCE" AND "ASSURANCE."

INSURANCE IS ... "COVERAGE YOU NEED TO HAVE, SHOULD LOSS OR HARM OCCUR." ...IT COSTS YOU A FEE, AND YOU MUST ALSO PAY A DEDUCTIBLE BEFORE YOU CAN RECEIVE ANY COMPENSATION FOR YOUR LOSS FROM THEFT, FIRE, PERSONAL INJURIES, OR DAMAGE TO YOUR BUILDING OR YOUR AUTOMOBILE. THE DOWNSIDE IS THAT SOME OF YOU HAVE BEEN PAYING ON A POLICY FOR YEARS FOR COVERAGE THAT YOU MAY OR MAY NOT EVER NEED OR HAVE EVER USED. **DISCLAIMER: SOME STATES ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTS OF GOD!**

ASSURANCE, HOWEVER, IS ... A "PROMISE, PLEDGE, GUARANTY, OR SURETY THAT GOD WILL DELIVER YOU **OUT** OF; OR BRING YOU **THROUGH** YOUR LOSS, AND KEEP YOU FROM HARM." ... IT IS ABSOLUTELY FREE! JESUS PAID THE PREMIUM IN FULL WHEN HE SHED HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD ON CALVARY! THERE ARE NO MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS AND THERE IS NO DEDUCTIBLE.



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ASSURANCE IS KNOWING THAT EVEN WHEN THE STORMS OF LIFE ARE RAGING, AND THE WINDS AND WAVES ARE BLOWING IN YOUR LIFE; WHEN THE FIERY DARTS OF THE ENEMY ARE POINTED, AIMED AND FIRED IN YOUR DIRECTION; AND WHEN YOUR BODY IS RACKING IN PAIN, YOU ARE **STILL** IN **GOOD HANDS!**

LET'S LOOK AT THE TEXT -- IN **VERSE 46** JESUS' FINAL WORDS FROM THE CROSS, A QUOTATION FROM (**PSALM 31:5**) EXPRESSED HIS FAITH, HIS RELATIONSHIP TO GOD, AND HIS INSISTENCE THAT DEATH AND THE CROSS DID NOT REPRESENT THE LAST WORD. DEATH LED ONLY TO PARADISE – TO PROTECTION **IN GOD'S HANDS**, TO THE KINGDOM; TO HEAVEN, TO GLORY, TO ZION, TO THE NEW JERUSALEM. IF DEATH LED JESUS SAFELY **INTO GOD'S HANDS**, DOES IT NOT DO THE SAME FOR ALL CHRISTIANS WHO TRUST AND BELIEVE?

WHEN YOU ARE IN GOOD HANDS YOU CAN FIND:



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—*Teaching point one:* **RELATIONSHIP**

HAD THERE NOT BEEN A PRE-EXISTING RELATIONSHIP, JESUS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CALL OUT TO GOD AND ADDRESS HIM AS “**FATHER**”. IT’S ABSURD TO SIMPLY WALK UP TO A TOTAL STRANGER AND ADDRESS THAT PERSON AS YOUR PARENT! THE RELATIONSHIP HAS TO BE SEALED IN BLOOD OR BY ADOPTION. JUST LIKE JESUS CALLED OUT TO HIS FATHER WE TOO, AS JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST, HAVE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THE FATHER AND CAN CRY OUT TO HIM DURING YOUR CALVARY EXPERIENCES! ONE OF THE CLOSEST HUMAN CONNECTIONS ONE PERSON CAN HAVE WITH ANOTHER IS A PARENT/CHILD RELATIONSHIP. NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, WHAT YOU SAY OR WHERE YOU GO, THAT RELATIONSHIP IS SEALED THROUGH THE BLOOD AND THE ONLY THING THAT CAN BE SEVERED IS THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION. YOU ARE STILL RELATED, AND WILL ALWAYS BE RELATED EVEN BEYOND THE GRAVE!

(ROMANS 10:9) IS A REMINDER THAT ONCE YOU CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH, THE LORD JESUS AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD YOU ARE SAVED AND IMMEDIATELY PLACED IN **GOOD HANDS**. YOU ARE SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED UNTIL THE DAY OF REDEMPTION. YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE A FATHER TO TALK TO WHEN THINGS ARE GOING WRONG IN YOUR LIFE, TO SEEK ADVICE AND DIRECTION FOR YOUR LIFE, TO PLEASE WHEN YOU DISPLAY HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES IN YOUR DAILY INTERACTIONS WITH OTHERS, AND TO MAGNIFY, GLORIFY AND HONOR WITH ALL OF YOUR MIND, BODY AND SOUL!

WHEN YOU ARE IN **GOOD HANDS** AND IN TRUE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER, HE WILL DIRECT YOU, INSPECT YOU, CORRECT YOU, PROTECT YOU AND PERFECT YOU. YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM IS THE ONE THING THAT YOU CAN BE CONFIDENT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE WITH YOU TO ETERNITY.



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What are the two ways you can enter into relationship with a parent (earthly or heavenly)?

What is our relationship with Jesus Christ?

Romans 10:9 says, “that if you _____ with your _____ the

_____ and _____ in your

_____ that _____ has _____ Him

from the _____, you will be _____.

When you are in good hands and in true relationship with God, He will:

_____ you

_____ you

_____ you

_____ you, and

_____ you.



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—*Teaching point two:* **REDEMPTION**

REDEMPTION IS DEFINED AS: 1) THE ACT OF MAKING SOMETHING BETTER OR MORE ACCEPTABLE. 2) THE ACT OF SAVING PEOPLE FROM SIN AND EVIL.

LET'S LOOK AT THE REDEMPTION STORY OF HOSEA AND GOMER. GOD COMMANDED HIM TO TAKE A WIFE OF HARLOTRY. BECAUSE SHE WAS A WIFE OF HARLOTRY, SHE RETURNED TO IT. GOD THEN COMMANDED HOSEA TO TAKE HER BACK THROUGH THE PROCESS OF REDEMPTION OR BUYING BACK.

GOD DID NOT GIVE HOSEA THIS UNUSUAL COMMAND FOR NO REASON. HE WAS LETTING HOSEA GRAPHICALLY LIVE OUT THE RELATIONSHIP HE SUSTAINED WITH ISRAEL. THEY HAD TURNED AWAY FROM HIM BECAUSE OF IDOLATRY. HOWEVER, HE HAD NOT GIVEN UP ON THEM OR YOU! HE LOVED THEM AND WANTED TO BUY THEM BACK FROM THEIR SINS. YOU TOO NEED REDEMPTION BECAUSE YOU HAVE FALLEN AWAY FROM GOD.

THE MECHANISM FOR REDEMPTION BY WHICH YOU ARE BOUGHT BACK OR PURCHASED FROM SIN COMES THROUGH THE SHED BLOOD OF JESUS. THIS WAS GRACIOUSLY PROVIDED BY GOD. ALTHOUGH HUNDREDS OF YEARS HAD PASSED, GOD STILL CARED FOR AND LOVED HIS CREATION. HE LOVED IT ENOUGH TO SEND HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON – FOR THEM AND FOR YOU AND I!

JUST AS HOSEA COMMANDED GOMER NOT TO PLAY THE HARLOT ANY LONGER, WHEN GOD REDEEMS YOU FROM SIN, YOU SHOULD NO LONGER RETURN TO SIN. HAVING BEEN REDEEMED FROM IT, YOU SHOULD LOOK FORWARD TO THE TIME WHEN YOU ARE DELIVERED INTO THE **GOOD HANDS** OF THE FATHER, AND RECEIVE THAT GLORIOUS RESURRECTION BODY.

HAVE YOU BEEN REDEEMED? HAVE YOU BEEN BOUGHT BACK FROM SIN? IF YOU HAVE NOT, IT COULD NOT BE A SIMPLER PROCESS.



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What are two definitions of Redemption?

Who are the two characters used as an illustration of what Redemption looks like?

_____ and _____.

What kind of wife was she?

What did God command the husband to do?

What other relationship is similar to the one you listed above?

_____ and _____.

What should you be looking forward to receiving because of your redemption?

A _____



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—*Teaching point three:***REWARD**

JESUS CAME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THOSE WHO WERE LOST. HE CAME THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY. (**HEBREWS 11:6**), “BUT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM: FOR HE THAT COMETH TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS, AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THEM THAT **DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM.**” **YOUR REWARD** – THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN RIGHT HERE ON EARTH. GOD DOES NOT WANT YOU TO BE SO HEAVENLY BOUND THAT YOU ARE NO EARTHLY GOOD. HE DESIRES YOU TO LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST HERE AND NOW!

GOD HAS PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU. HE HAS AN EXPECTED END FOR YOUR LIFE – A PURPOSE AND A PLAN FOR YOUR DESTINY! HE IS ABLE TO SUPPLY ALL OF YOUR NEED ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY BY CHRIST JESUS. THE BIBLE SAYS IN (**MATTHEW 6:33**), “SEEK YE FIRST, THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS AND ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE ADDED UNTO YOU.” AND ALL THAT YOU’LL EVER NEED AND EVER HOPE TO BE IS IN HIS **HANDS.** **YOUR REWARD** – UNCONDITIONAL LOVE, WONDEROUS PEACE, AND UNSPEAKABLE JOY. WHEN YOU DELIGHT YOURSELF IN THE LORD; HE WILL GIVE YOU THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART.

THE ULTIMATE DEPICTION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE IS FOUND IN (**PSALMS 23**). **YOUR REWARD** -- RELATIONSHIP, SUPPLY, REST, REFRESHMENT, HEALING, GUIDANCE, PURPOSE, TESTING, PROTECTION, FAITHFULNESS, DISCIPLINE, HOPE, CONSECRATION, ABUNDANCE, BLESSINGS, SECURITY AND ETERNITY. YOU CAN ONLY EXPERIENCE ALL OF THESE REWARDS WHEN YOU ARE **IN GOOD HANDS!**



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JESUS WENT AWAY TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU THAT WHERE HE IS, YOU MAY BE THERE ALSO. **YOUR REWARD** – JUST TO BEHOLD HIS FACE! NEW HOME, NEW NAME, NEW BODY. THERE IS A TREE OF LIFE BEARING LEAVES FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATION. NO SICKNESS. NO CRYING. NO DYING. A LAND WHERE YOU’LL NEVER GROW OLD! EVERY DAY WILL BE SUNDAY, SABBATH SHALL HAVE NO END! A CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND A ROBE OF IMMORTALITY, PRAISING GOD ALL DAY LONG!

What is your reward once you have been found?

What is God’s plan for your life?

What did Jesus go away to prepare for you?



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CONCLUSION:

SCRIPTURE PROVES REPEATEDLY THAT WHEN YOU DIE, YOUR SPIRIT RETURNS TO GOD. (**ECCLESIASTES 12:7**) – “THEN SHALL THE DUST RETURN TO THE EARTH AS IT WAS: AND THE SPIRIT SHALL RETURN UNTO GOD WHO GAVE IT.” (**PSALMS 35:1**) – “INTO THINE HAND I COMMIT MY SPIRIT: THOU HAST REDEEMED ME, O LORD GOD OF TRUTH.” (**ACTS 7:59**) -- “WHILE THEY WERE STONING HIM, STEPHEN PRAYED, “LORD JESUS, RECEIVE MY SPIRIT.”

JUST LIKE DAVID, STEPHEN AND JESUS TRUSTED GOD TO BE THEIR ROCK AND THEIR FORTRESS AND TO SAVE THEM FROM THEIR PERSECUTORS; YOU TOO CAN PUT YOUR LIFE IN **GOOD HANDS** AND TRUST GOD TO TAKE CARE OF EVERY STRUGGLE, EVERY SET BACK, EVERY SET UP, AND EVERY STRESS IN YOUR LIFE! REFUSE TO GO THROUGH YOUR SITUATION WITHOUT THE SCRIPTURE! REFUSE TO GO THROUGH YOUR PAIN WITHOUT HOLDING ON TO THE PROMISE! PEOPLE OF GOD, YOU HAVE THE PRIVILEGE AND ASSURANCE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE MIDST OF YOUR CRISIS THAT HE’S ABLE, THAT HE CAN AND THAT GOD WILL BRING YOU THROUGH! THERE IS NEVER A TIME WHEN YOU ARE GOING THROUGH YOUR TROUBLES WHEN GOD IS NOT SUMMONING YOU TO PUT YOUR TROUBLE IN **GOOD HANDS**.

CAN YOU SEE HIM HANGING ON THE CROSS FOR YOU AND FOR ME? THE VEIL OF THE TEMPLE WAS RENT IN TWO FROM TOP TO BOTTOM. TWO SUNS COULDN’T SHINE, SO THE **SUN** REFUSED TO SHINE WHILE THE **SON** HUNG ON THE CROSS. MOON DRIPPED IN BLOOD, STARS FELL FROM THEIR SILVER SOCKET! THE EARTH REELED AND ROCKED LIKE A DRUNKEN MAN! THE CENTURION SOLIDER CRIED, “SURELY, THIS MUST BE THE SON OF GOD!” WITH ONE LAST SURGE OF STRENGTH, HE ONCE AGAIN PRESSES HIS TORN FEET AGAINST THE NAIL, STRAIGHTENS HIS LEGS, TAKES A DEEPER BREATH AND UTTERS HIS SEVENTH CRY, “**FATHER, INTO THY HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT.**” HIS MISSION OF ATONEMENT IS NOW COMPLETE.



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FINALLY HE ALLOWED HIS BODY TO DIE. AND HE GAVE UP THE GHOST. HE HUNG THERE FROM THE SIXTH TO THE NINTH HOUR AND WAS TAKEN DOWN AND BURIED IN JOSEPH'S BORROWED TOMB. BUT WHEN HE GOT UP EARLY ON THAT THIRD-DAY MORNING WITH ALL POWER IN HIS **HANDS**, HE TOOK THE STING FROM DEATH AND THE VICTORY FROM THE GRAVE. THE GRAVE COULDN'T HOLD HIM. DEATH COULDN'T CONTAIN HIM. AND THE FORCE OF DARKNESS COULDN'T STOP HIM.

ARE YOU IN GOOD HANDS?

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

LUKE 23:46

PSALM 31:5

ROMANS 10:9

HEBREWS 11:6

MATTHEW 6:33

PSALMS 23

ECCLESIASTES 12:7

PSALMS 35:1

ACTS 7:59