

## **Behold My Hands**

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1987

### **Luke 24: 39**

*“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.”*

Here is our text for today; it is taken from Luke 24:39. *“Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; handle Me and see. A spirit hath not flesh and bones as you see Me have.”* The subject for today is: “BEHOLD MY HANDS.”

My friends, the Lord Jesus had been crucified and had risen from the tomb. The disciples were not yet convinced of His resurrection. The women had come back from the tomb and told what they had seen, what they heard and what the angels had said to them, *“Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here; He is risen.”*

These disciples were still in a state of fear and indecision and depression; they were very sorrowful. Two of them were walking from Jerusalem to a little village called Emmaus. They were sad and sorrowful over the death of their Master. They were talking among themselves over the things that had taken place over the past few days.

The Lord Jesus Christ, the risen Christ came and joined with them and walked along beside them. They didn't know Him. The Scripture says, *“Their eyes were holden that they should not know Him.”* They did not recognize the Master as He was walking along right beside them and talking about the things that had taken place.

He looked at them and said, *“Why are you so sad?”* One of them looked up and said, *“Are you a stranger in these parts; don't you know what has taken place over the past several days? Don't you know about Jesus of Nazareth and about His death and these things?”*

The Lord then asked, *“What things took place?”* One of those disciples began to tell Him about Jesus Christ (this disciple is telling the Lord Himself about Christ); he said, *“We thought that He was the Prophet that Moses prophesied would come. We thought that He was the Messiah.”*

*“We thought that He was the one that God would send to restore Israel to its glory and to its greatness; we thought all of these things, but alas, He is dead now.”* That is when the Lord Jesus said to them, *“O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets wrote.”*

They still didn't know who they were talking to or who was talking to them. He said, "*Ought not Christ to have suffered these things and to enter in his glory*" (to fulfill all that the Old Testament Scriptures say about Him)? He then opened their understanding concerning the things in the Scriptures about the Messiah, about the Redeemer.

He told about how every type and every picture in Moses, in the Psalms and in the prophets were

about the coming of Christ, the death of Christ, the sacrifice of Christ, the resurrection of Christ and the fulfillment of these things. He talked to them as they walked along and opened their understanding. He revealed to them the Old Testament Scriptures about Christ.

They came to where they were going to stop for the evening. They invited Him to come in and stay with them. They said, "*The day is far spent; night is coming on. Why don't you just come in and stay with us?*"

So, He went in and they prepared a meal. The Lord Jesus sat down with them (with these two disciples). "*He took bread and He blessed it.*" Then, they knew; their eyes were opened and they knew it was the Christ who had been talking to them; it was their Master, their risen Lord. The Scriptures says, "*He vanished out of their sight;*" He left them.

Then, the disciples got up quickly from their meal and they hastened back to Jerusalem to find the other disciples and to tell them that the Lord had risen from the dead. They told the other disciples how the Lord had appeared to them and talked to them.

They came back excited and filled with joy. They found the other disciples, (the eleven), and they began to tell them about what they had seen and what they had heard. The Scriptures said, "*As they spoke, the Lord Jesus again, stood in their midst.*"

Here are Peter, James, John, Matthew and all of the disciples. These two followers were there; there were 13 all together and I suppose that there may have been others. Our Lord Jesus appeared right there in their midst and He said to them; "*Peace be unto you.*"

They looked up and saw Him. The Scripture says, "*They were terrified.*" They were afraid and the Scripture says, "*Many thoughts ran through their minds.*" They shrank back in fear; they thought they had seen a spirit." He said to them, "*Why are you afraid? Why do doubts and fears fill your heart? Why are you afraid? Behold My hands.*"

My friend; I ask you, are you ever troubled; are you ever fearful concerning life and death, concerning judgment and eternity? Are you ever troubled about the presence of God, the Law of God, the holiness of God, the judgment of God, the love and wrath of God in your relationship with God? Are you ever troubled about your interest in Christ? Are you ever troubled?

The condition of these disciples was one of fear and many thoughts ran through their minds and hearts. Does this ever describe you? Oh, yes it does; I know that it certainly does. If not, you would have to be unaware of the magnitude of these issues.

Not to have some fears, concern and anxiety about life and death, about judgment, eternity, and a relationship with God, or the condemnation of God, you would have to be unaware of these issues.

You would not know about living eternally with God or to be eternally separated from God. You would be unaware about the Spirit of God. To not have any concern or anxiety about those things, you would have to be totally unaware of the magnitude of these issues. If you are not concerned, you may be dull to these great events that are recorded in these verses here.

I will tell you this; for every true believer, every day requires a fresh glimpse of Christ. Now, you remember that; every true believer, every day, requires a fresh glimpse of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The disciples were praying and they were troubled because they had seen Him crucified and had seen Him buried. Here He is standing in front of them. Here He is saying, *“Peace; be still; peace be unto you.”*

These disciples were afraid and troubled. When thoughts filled their hearts our Lord Jesus just said three Words; *“Behold My hands.”* Those were the three most important words. He said other things but said, *“You look at My hands.”*

I found another verse over in John 20:20; listen to this; *“And when He had so said, He showed them His hands and His side and then were the disciples glad.”* When they saw His hands they were glad.

Why were they so glad when they saw His hands? It was for the same reason that you will be glad if you understand the significance of His hands. There they were; do you get the picture? They were full of doubts, fears, and their hearts were troubled. Our Lord

appeared to them and sat before them and said; *“Behold My hands.”* When they saw His hands they were glad.

I’m going to give you six things:

First of all: *“Behold My hands.”* If you can see this, bear with me; they were the hands of our sovereign Lord and God. When He held out those hands before His disciples He was saying to them, *“These are the hands that made the world.”*

These are not the hands of a weakling. These are not the hands of a defeated Reformer. These are not the hands of a frustrated, defeated martyr; these are the hands that formed the world. I’m sure you have heard the song, *“He’s got the Whole World in His Hands.”*

Listen to David in Psalm 95; *“In His hand are the deep places of the earth. The strength of the hills is in His hand. The sea is His; He made it. His hands have formed the dry land. O come; let us worship and let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.”*

The question comes to me; if He, with His hands so clothes the lily of the field (which today is and tomorrow is not), if He cloths the fields with grass that today is and tomorrow is cast into the oven, if He with His own hand paints the blue sky, if He with His own hands makes the tree to bear fruit, if He with His own hands feeds the robin and the sparrow; will He not clothe me; will He not feed me?

He said, *“Ye of little faith; believe in Me. Behold the hands of your Sovereign Lord and be not troubled. Behold the hands of your Sovereign Lord and be not afraid; behold My hands.”* These are the hands of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. These are the hands of our sovereign Redeemer.

Second: He said to them, *“Behold My hands.”* These are the hands of our Surety. We read in John Chapter 10, beginning with verse 24, it says; *“The Jews came to Him and said to Him; if you be the Christ; tell us plainly and we will believe You.”*

He said, *“I told you but you didn’t believe Me. You didn’t believe Me because you are not of My sheep. You see; My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow Me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish. Neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. You see; My Father which gave them Me is greater than all. No man can pluck them out of My Father’s hand.”*

Do you see why the disciples were glad? If you can ever get a hold of this you will be glad. They were so troubled, afraid, filled with doubts and thoughts troubled their hearts.

He just said to them, “*Behold My hands; don’t be afraid; these are the hands of the sovereign King.*”

These are the hands of our Surety. We have been put by the Father in His hands. He said, “*I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.*”

That is the reason that Paul could say, “*Who can lay anything to the charge of God’s elect; it is God that justifies? Who can condemn me; it is Christ that died? Who can separate me from the love of God? Shall tribulation, distress, famine, persecution, the sword?*” I am in His hands.

Every believer is given to Christ in the Covenant of Mercy. Every believer is secure in the hands of Christ our Surety. He will bring us home. “*He will not lose a one; (that is what He said), not a one; I will not lose a one.*”

There is a beautiful story over in the Old Testament. Do you remember the brothers, the ten brothers who sold their brother Joseph into slavery? They thought he was dead. By God’s providence he was taken into Egypt. Many years passed and Joseph became second in command in the land of Egypt. He was second to Pharaoh. He was really the king over Egypt.

God sent a great famine over the whole earth. Joseph, by God’s warnings and by God’s teachings, supplied Egypt with enough corn, grain, wheat, barley and all these type of things to feed the world. He had it stored for seven years. When the famine came they had plenty.

Joseph’s ten brothers, their father and their little brother Benjamin, were still down in the land of Israel starving. They said to their father one day; “*We hear that there is plenty of corn, rye, grain and wheat in Egypt; let’s go down there and get some.*” Their father said to go ahead.

So, the ten boys went down there. Benjamin stayed home; he was their little brother, “*The son of My love, the beloved son.*” When they got there Joseph recognized them. They had to go to Joseph to get the food. They didn’t recognize him; they thought he was dead.

Joseph gave them plenty to eat and to take home. He said this to them; “*You fellows; have you got any more brothers?*” He really wanted to see his brother Benjamin. They

said, *“We’ve got a brother at home. We are really 12 brothers but one is dead; his name was Joseph. Benjamin is at home and there are ten of us here.”*

He said, *“I believe that you are spies.”* They said that they were not spies. He said, *“You leave one of the brothers here and nine of you go home. Bring back that little brother with you and I will believe you and give you plenty to eat and all eleven of you can go back.”*

They went home and told their old father Jacob about it and he said, *“Oh no, you are not going back. Joseph is dead, Simeon is now in captivity and you want to take Benjamin down there? That man is a mad man.”* They said, *“Let us go; we are going to starve.”* He said, *“Oh no; we will just do without.”*

Things went from bad to worse. The brothers came to the father and said, *“We have got to go; we have got to go get corn. Let Benjamin go up there with us and get corn.”* He kept saying no.

Judah is the tribe from which our Lord Jesus came, One of the brother’s names was Judah, the kingly tribe mentioned in Genesis Chapter 43:9, said to his father; *“Father, let Benjamin go with me; put me in charge. Put him in my hands. Make me and hold me responsible and I will bring him back. I will be his surety. If I don’t bring him back you hold me accountable.”* That is what a surety does. Our Lord Jesus Christ is our Surety. Judah said, *“If I bring him not home, you can require at my hands.”*

So when the Lord Jesus stood before his troubled, frightened disciples with their hearts filled with all kind of thoughts, said; *“Look at my hands.”* These are the hands of a sovereign God who cannot fail. These are the hands of a Surety whose hands you are completely saved and will never be deserted. *“I will never forsake you.”*

Third: Christ says, *“Behold My hands.”* These are the hands of my Substitute. That is the reason that I am glad. I can see the nail prints in His hands. I know why they are there. He said in Psalm 22:16, *“They pierced My hands and My feet.”*

When they told Old Thomas that the Lord had risen, He said, *“I won’t believe it except I see the print of the nails in His hands; I won’t believe.”* My friends; that is not all bad; the only one who can save you is the one that has the nail prints in His hands. The only one who can forgive you is the one who has nail prints in His hands.

Those nail prints were put there in your place and in your stead. I know no redemption except by substitution. I know no Substitute but Christ. *“He was wounded for our*

*transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed.”*

When I see His hands, the hands of the sovereign Surety and I see nail prints in those hands; I know this, *“By His stripes I’m healed.”* I am healed by His scars, and His wounds and I am made whole. That is my security and that is my safety.

You see; the Holy Law of God must be honored, it must be exalted and it must be magnified. God Almighty’s Justice must be satisfied. There is no way that God is going to sneak anyone through the back door into heaven. There is no way that God Almighty is going to overlook our sins and take us to glory with sin unpunished and His Law unsatisfied.

Everything has to be on top of the table. Everything has to be above board. God has got to be Just and Justifier. God has to be a righteous Redeemer. He has to be a glorified grace giver and that is what the scars mean. The debt was paid:

“Jesus paid it all,  
All the debt I owe.  
Sin has left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.”

He fully and completely, totally, effectually and sufficiently satisfied it all and there is no charge against us; it is paid in full. I believe that right now He is interceding for His people in glory on the right hand of the Father. He doesn’t have to say a word; all He has to do is hold up His hands. The hands indicate that He was wounded in the house of his friends. *“Behold My hands.”*

Don’t look to the Law; look to Christ. Don’t look to your good deeds; look to Christ. Quit looking in your filthy heart for some satisfaction and peace. Look to the wounded hands of Christ. *“By His stripes we are healed.”* I wish I could make that plain to you but I can’t; God will have to.

Fourth: *“Behold My hands,”* the hands of safety. The disciples were out there on the boat and our Lord Jesus appeared to them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw Him they said, *“Well; it is the Lord.”*

Peter spoke up; he was always so impulsive and always talking when he should have been listening. God loved Peter and Christ blessed him and used him mightily. Peter said, *“Lord; if it is you let me come to You on the water.”* The Lord said, *“Come on.”*

So, Peter stepped out of the boat and did what the Lord told him to do. He walked on the water but when he saw the waves boisterous, the wind and the clouds, he began to sink. The Scripture says in Matthew 14:31, *“That the Lord Jesus stretched forth his hand.”* Those mighty hands that were *“wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities.”*

I’m talking about those hands that are our sovereign Lord’s hands, our Surety’s hands and our Substitutes’ hands. Our Lord stretched out His hands and brought him to safety.

What is that saying to me? I will tell you what it is saying; I’m not through with this life yet. I’m not over this journey yet. On this sea of life there are many storms and the waves are very high and the clouds are very dark. I will surely fail and you will surely fail; is that right?

No sir, I will finally fall; I will finally sink and I will finally perish beneath the waves that are too mighty for me. Well, you are right on half of it; they are too mighty for you but you will never perish if you are His own because His hands are always there to lift you up.

Listen to what the Psalmist said in Psalm 37, *“The steps of a good man, (a godly man, a believing man), are ordered by the Lord. He delights in His way. Though he fall; he shall not be utterly cast down for the Lord upholdeth him with His hands.”* That is what our Lord is saying to these troubled, frightened, disciples.

The Lord had been crucified and they thought He was gone. They thought they were on their own. They were sheep among wolves. They are out here in a world that was unfriendly and full of hatred. They were scared to death. He stood before them and said, *“Behold My hands;”* I will hold you up.

He demonstrated here in the life of the apostle Peter when he began to sink; He reached out His hands. He let him walk and he let him fall. He let him walk and he let him fail. He didn’t let him completely perish; He brought him back up.

The old song writer said:

When the storms of life assail,  
And my heart begins to fail,  
Thou who rulest wind and water  
Stand by me.

When the storms of life are raging, we've got old age to go through. We've got some sickness to go through. We have some valleys of sorrow to go through, every one of us. Don't boast too loud and don't brag too much. The only thing that you can boast in is His power to keep us. The only thing you can brag about is His sufficiency. That's right!

*"Thou he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down for the Lord upholdeth him with His hands."* Do not look within; look to those hands, the hands of safety.

Fifth: He said, *"Behold my hands."* These are the hands not only of Sovereignty, these are the hands not only of our Surety, not only of our Substitute, not only of our safety, but these are the hands of solace and comfort.

The Scripture says in Luke 24:50, *"He led them out as far as Bethany. He lifted up His hands and blessed them."* I've seen preachers stand over their congregations and raise their hands, pronounce the benediction or the blessing. I'm ashamed to do that because there is no power in my hands to bless anyone. There is no strength in my hand to keep anybody. There is no power in my hands to heal anyone.

I will tell you this; if He is pleased to raise His hands over us, the hands of Sovereignty, the hands of Substitution, and the hands of our Surety, He can bless you." It says in Mark 10:13, *"They brought little children to Him. He took them upon His knee and He laid His hands on them and blessed them."*

He continually blesses His children. He said, *"Blessed are the poor in Spirit; theirs is the Kingdom of God. Blessed are the peace makers; they are called the children of God. Blessed are ye when you are hungry and thirst for righteousness; you will be filled."*

*"Blessed are you when men persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad."* Christ said, *"I bless you; I raise My hand and bless you."*

I will tell you, every step of the way, all the way down through the day of life, we have been blessed. What is that song?

"Count your many blessings  
Name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you,  
What the Lord hath done."

Somebody said to me recently, “You know; if God never gives me another blessing on this earth, He has blessed me beyond everybody that I know; I have had so many mercies and so many blessings. I will not complain the rest of the way.”

Here is something else about this hand of comfort and solace; even when He chastens, He blesses. In Job Chapter 5, it says; “*Happy is the man whom the Lord correcteth.*” Happy is the man whom the Lord has corrected That is what it says. “*Therefore, despise not the chastening of the Almighty; He woundeth but His hands make whole.*”

The same hand that corrects and the same hand that disciplines is the same hand that says, “*forgiven.*” He put His hands on them and blessed them. Oh how beautiful!

No wonder they were comforted and no wonder they were glad when they saw His hands, the hands in whom the whole world has been placed by God Almighty’s decree. His hands are the hands of our Surety to whom every believer has been entrusted.

His hands are the hands of our Substitute, who by His death and by the shedding of His blood has effectually redeemed us. These are the hands of safety:

“He will keep me til the river  
Rolls its water at my feet,  
Then He will bear me safely over  
Where My Lord Jesus I shall meet.”

This is the hand of comfort!

Last of all; it is the hand of salvation. In Isaiah 59:1 it says, “*Behold the Lord’s hand is not short that it cannot save.*” What does He mean by that? It means just this; He can save even you. I don’t care who you are, where you are or what you have done; “*His hand is not shortened that it cannot save. His ear is not heavy that He cannot hear.*”

The cry of a needy sinner, the cry of a repentant soul, the cry of a weary traveler, or with the cry of a heavy laden sinner, “*His ear is not heavy that He cannot hear.*” He is tuned your way and “*His hand is not short that it cannot save,*” if you call on Him.

This is the hand of our Saviour and the only Saviour. “*There is none other name under heaven and given among men whereby we must be saved.*” Let’s not close before we read this in Hebrews 10:31; “*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living God.*”

I will tell you this; the disciples, in their trouble and anxiety, sitting there with thoughts spilling their hearts, our Lord Jesus Christ stood before them and comforted them with His presence and revelation of His hands. He said, *“Let not your heart be troubled; behold My hands.”* They were glad.

I am also telling you this, one of these days there is going to be a fearful thing to behold His hands or *“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of an angry God.”* God is angry with those who rebel against Christ and those who despise the riches of His grace! *“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”*