

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

A Whole New You Series, Lesson 25

Lesson Title: New Hands

Take Home Point: Your hands can help: now is the time.

Warm-Up:

One of the more amazing areas of medical research is the attempt to develop artificial hands with "skin" that acts and reacts the way our skin does. That is, the biotech fingers that not only recognize touch, but feel hot, cold, pleasure, pain, pressure, etc. Much activity has been going on for many years, and progress has been made, but the phenomenal complexity of the human skin organ is tremendously difficult to duplicate. God made us so the same nerves in our fingers sense and respond to the infinite variety of sensations, both good and bad. In the laboratory, the artificial hand has individual sensors for each type of sensation, and each sensor must be programmed to sense, interpret, and respond. All extremely complicated. In us, the complexity is in our brain. What we need to do is decide to use our hands for good, to help others.

Read: Luke 10:25-37; John 20:24-30; 1 Timothy 4:12

Observation (What happened?):

List all the things the Samaritan did with his hands to help the wounded man.

What are the different ways Paul tells Timothy to set an example?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What might Thomas have been thinking when Jesus said to touch his nail marks?

What was the point of the parable Jesus told?

Insight:

The Bible is an extremely practical book. For those who do not know the Bible, that probably seems like a false statement. But it is the spiritual guide to life, not just the guide to the spiritual life. God made us to live on this earth, living, thinking, and doing. Throughout the Bible, the writers enjoin us to do good, to do the right thing, to act out our faith, to live as disciples of Christ in a sin-sick world. Proverbs 3:27 says: "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act." (NIV) Jesus tells several parables of servants who are doing good on behalf of their masters; Matthew 24:25 and Luke 12:43 are two examples. The account you read today of the Samaritan who helps the robbery victim is another. The New Testament book of James is filled with references to acting on our faith; James tells us that faith without action is dead faith. No good at all. It's important to have the right beliefs and attitudes, but in God's eyes, it is just as important to act on what we know.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What kind of example are you setting for those around you – family, friends, co-workers, other drivers on the road, store clerks?

Do one thing this week for someone you know can't reciprocate your act of love and faith.