

What's in Your Hand

Sermon Title: **What's in Your Hand**

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Speaker: **James Bronner**

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James Bronner: When God puts the super on your natural, supernatural phenomenon takes place.

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(Music Playing: 00:00:18 - 00:00:47)

Automated Voice: And now for 8237, "What's in Your Hand."

James Bronner: Welcome to brothers of the word because brother you need the word. And today I'm going to preach from only one verse, only one verse and I've never done that here before. I usually like to use a variety of scripture, but only one verse was laid upon my heart to minister today. And not only is it just one verse, but it's an unfamiliar verse to most Christians about an unfamiliar man to most Christians.

Most of you would have never heard the character that I speak about today. But when I read this verse in my personal study, something struck my spirit and said this man needs to be known. And how many of you have done good things on your job or good things in your neighborhoods, good things in your family but it seems like it was never recognized like nobody mentioned it. Your story was never told.

It seems like you do something bad, it's all over the city, all in the newspaper, all over Facebook but you do something good, it's like nobody is talking about it. And this verse is from Judges Chapter 3 Verse 31 and it reads, "And after him was Shamgar the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel."

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And I speak to you from the subject of What is in Your Hand. What is in your hand. There's really only this one verse and the bible that talks about this judge, Shamgar. He's mentioned at one other place that says in the days of Shamgar but it really doesn't add and give any more details about the man.

He may be little known by most Christians. I've never heard a sermon preached about him, but I would like to pause today to tell you about this judge that delivered a nation with what was in his hand. He didn't have a great name, he didn't have a warrior's history, he didn't have any military rank. He didn't have any special weapons. Even the very name Shamgar in Hebrew means the desolate, dragged away one.

So, he didn't have a might name and meaning, but even though he didn't have much, he dedicated the little that he had in his hands unto God. To be used in whatever way he saw fit and God turned this nobody into a national hero and he slayed 600 Philistine men with an ox goad which was a farmer's tool that was used to prod on oxen as they plowed the ground, and this goad it was a wooden stick, about eight feet long and about two to six inches around with a sharp end on one end, and a small shovel like end on the back end to scrape dirt off the plow.

So, I ask you today, what's in your hand? Turn to your neighbor on each side and ask them, "What's in your hand?" And everybody just looks at your own hand right now. Look at your own hand and zoom in and look closely at their ridges on the end of your finger called a fingerprint. And this tiny ridges you now see, they are unique among all others on the planet, and even my phone, it has a technology in it where I can scan my fingerprint across and it can recognize me from everybody else on the planet and it will unlock for my finger.

While looking at your hand, ask yourself, what is God's purpose for these hands to do on earth? Everything you touch leaves a smudge of a fingerprint your now see. You leave a mark on everything you touch, there are some situations where only your fingerprint will straighten them out. There are some people where only your fingerprint on them will be able to draw them to Christ. There are some blessings where only your fingerprint will be able to unlock them. What's in your hand today?

00:05:00

Many times, we undervalue what's in our hand because it's common to us. It may be something that we've dealt with in our hand for a long time and once it becomes common, we don't place the value on it. There's something new and you might say all I

can do is cook, but I'm here to tell you, that I know a story of an old widowed woman that had just a little oil and a little meal and she found her salvation through breaking bread with the little that was in her hands.

You might say that all I'm good at is singing about children, well I've heard that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. The first black president of the US and President Bill Clinton were both raised without their biological father being there. You may have the gift of song or dance in your hands and if you submit them unto God, chains can be broken in the atmosphere just from the worship of God.

You might say, I don't have any money, don't have a degree, don't have any special skills and my hands are empty. I disagree with you. That if you put two empty hands together, I declare you do have something of great value that there's power in prayer. He may just call you to just be an intercessor for others, don't despise the little that's in your hand. I tell you that prayer changes things. All great moves of God were brought on through prayer.

What's in your hand today? Sometimes we're so blinded by what we don't have, we can't see what we do have. The Bible in Judges 5 talks about Shamgar's time saying that the roads were abandoned and travelers took to winding paths, village life in Israel had ceased, says that out of 40,000 men, you couldn't find one spear or shield among them.

The men other than Shamgar couldn't see what they had in their own hands. For spending so much time worrying about weapons that they didn't have, and God wants to use what you have right now so that he can breathe on you and get the glory. And see, if Shamgar had a full staff of guards, with super sharp blades, then Israel would have praised the skill of the men and the warriors.

But because it was just one man, with an old wooden farming tool, that killed these 600 Philistines, they had to glorify God because they knew it was no way in his own might and his own power that it could be done. And he'll do great things in your life so that those that see it will know and have to praise God. But they'll know that no amount of training, no amount of resources could do what was done but by the grace of God.

So many times, we pray to God to put more in our hands, but every person that I know of in the Bible, they used what they had in their own hands first before God blessed them with a whole lot more. The Bible says that he who is faithful over a little, he'll make them ruler over much. So, you've got to show God your faithfulness. Right where you are with what you have in order to be increased with more.

God asked Moses, what's in your hand Moses? And he said, all I have is this staff in my hand, and that shepherd staff wasn't much but dedicated to God it became a mighty tool. David used a sling and five smooth stones to conquer an army for the little boy of the feeding of the 5,000, it was five loaves and two fish that was in his hand. For Samson, it was the jawbone of a donkey in his hand. For Peter and Andrew, they only had fishing nets, but Jesus made them fishers of men. God can use anything and I ask you, what's in your hand today? What's in your hand?

When I looked up the definition of goad, before the definition in the dictionary, it had the pronunciation key, and as the pronunciation it listed G then long O, that's an O with a line over it and then D. Right there in the dictionary, not even in the Bible, but in the dictionary, revelation came to my eyes that it was G-O-D as the pronunciation of goad and God was right there hidden in the very definition of this goad.

The man attacking Shamgar, they probably saw him out farming and said, let's go raid this little old man's farm and take his cattle and they saw him with just a stick in his hand and said, all he's got is a stick. He doesn't have any weapons. No swords. No bow and arrows, no shield. We can go out there and take what he has and be on our way with it.

But they couldn't see in this goad, they couldn't see that God that was upon it. And when they came to march upon him, they underestimated what was upon this man, Shamgar, that as he began sticking them one by one with this goad, they said, what is this on this stick that's going through our armors, that's going through us, that we underestimated it.

It looked like an old shepherd. It looked like he was just a farmer but something was on this where they underestimated that God that they couldn't see in his goad. So, I ask you today, what's in your hand?

When God puts the super on your natural, supernatural phenomenon takes place. Many of you sitting out there today. The devil has underestimated his attack on you. Because all he could see is your frailty, he could only see your weakness, but they can't see God's strength upon your weakness until it's too late. When you get into the fight with the enemy, he'll say that this isn't the same man or woman that I saw from a distance. It's not the same person that I attacked. Somehow, they're stronger now. Some of you in here today are supposed to be dead by now by the devil's calculation. But when he attacked your body, he couldn't see the super upon your natural.

Some of you in here today, you've been through so much mental attack. You ought to be in an institution today. But he underestimated your capacity to handle adversity because he couldn't see the super upon your natural. Shamgar used the ox goad like a sword and the bible talks about the word of God and said, the word quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow and is a discerner. The thoughts and very intent of the heart. So, you've got to use the weapon of the word of God as your sword. And when the devil comes to attack you on your job, and you see you're both coming at you with that crazy look in his eyes, you've got to mutter under your breath and say, for it is written that no weapon formed against me shall prosper.

When you see your children want to act crazy on you and you see the devil want to come against your home, you've got to stop him with the weapon of the sword, the spirit of the word of God and say, "It is written that as for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord." When he comes in like a flood against your body and you may feel some pain in places that you haven't been normally feeling and then the devil starts to tell you things about what may be going on in your body and before you go to the doctor, you need to use your sword of the spirit, that word and you need to attack that enemy and say, "For it is written. He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our

inequities. The (00:12:46) upon us with this strike, I am healed in Jesus name.”

He has called for us to use that weapon of his word against every attack of the enemy. Sometimes we spend too much time focusing on the size of our problem instead of the size of our God. And we should have the word of God on our hands and in our hearts and with the sword of the spirit, we can conquer giants.

When I was about 10 years old, my mother hasn't even heard this story and she didn't even know it was going on and we were all -- C. Elijah would be aware of it but we were gathered in the den. I've gotten too big to get a spanking now so I'm going to tell it now. We were gathered in the den watching television. I was only about 10 years old and some of you may have remembered the TV series the Incredible Hulk and they got movies now but it was a TV series back in our day. It came on every week.

And me watching this thing as a young boy, I developed this nature where when somebody made me real bad, I would go to a corner and just get quiet and I will come out and they say, “Oh, he's turning into the Hulk now.” I am telling the truth, C. Elijah. So one day my neighbor was over, Tony, and he was about 10 years older than me, so I was about 10, he may have been about 20 and I was about waist high to him and he just kept on me, they kept messing with me, kept teasing me. And he just kept on hitting on me and I just reached a point where I just couldn't take it anymore.

I mean if you've ever reached that point in your life, I just couldn't take it anymore and I went to my little corner and got quiet and this time I took it a little too far and like I said, the regular Hulk wouldn't go and do it and I went to the kitchen this time and saw in the counter the knife that we cut bread with and I grabbed this knife, came out with the Hulk with the knife this time and when he saw me even though I was only waist high to him, I saw him flee and run like I'd never seen this grown man run before.

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He didn't stop and try to argue with me and try to reason with me, saying, “You know I was just playing with you and I'm an adult.” He didn't try to do any logical, he just took off and hit

the door. We just heard the door slam behind him and I didn't see him for a few weeks. And I tell you that to see that he wasn't afraid of me because I was only waist high, but he was afraid of what was in my hand. And if you have that word of God in your hand, that sword, that no matter your size, no matter how much resource you have, no matter what kind of degree you have, that that word of God when he sees you coming with it, he'll have to flee like my neighbor. Glory, glory, glory, glory.

And I tell you, that same knife that was used to slice bread in the house became a fearful weapon in my hands against a giant in my sight. And by parallel, Jesus is the bread of life and his word slices open the revelation of him and powers us against the enemy as our mighty weapon. And as I near my close today. I ask you again, what is in your hand and have you dedicated it unto God?

I teach my children that to become good at something in the natural, it takes three natural components. First one is talent, that's what you're born with. The second one is training, which is given by somebody who is already good at it. The third one is practice, so once you've trained, you've got to practice it to become good at it.

But when you want to go beyond good and become extraordinary, I also teach them there's a fourth component, and that is the anointing and the favor of God. When the spirit of the Lord comes upon you, he will take you to a level that is beyond your natural talent, beyond your training, beyond your years of practice to a level that only he can take you to.

Shamgar didn't have the talent, he didn't have the training, he never practiced enough to beat 600 men with just a stick, but with the spirit of the Lord on him, he was able to save a nation. Shamgar was farming and submitted his tool unto God and a nation was delivered. What could God do in your workplace if you submit your job unto God. You submit your talents unto God. You may be a hairstylist or a barber and you say, what's in my hand.

You can look at your chair as one swiveling pew, and as each person comes in, one by one, you can ask God for godly wisdom and begin as you anoint their head with oil, you can begin to

counsel them to minister salvation unto them. You might be a teacher and say, what's in my hand, what can I do as a teacher. They've taken prayer out of the school, they've taken the Bible out of the school, what can I do. You can look at what's in your hand and dedicate it unto God.

When you go home every night and have to grade papers. You can pray before it and you can take those papers after you've graded and lay hand over each paper and use them as a prayer cloth and begin to pray over little Johnny and little Susie's house and the things that may be going on in their world and begin to pray that god will minister salvation under their houses. And when they get those papers back in class, even though it might not be an outward saying in school but they'll feel something jump off of the paper that they got graded. And God can use that gifting.

You may even be a jail guard and saying, "What can I do in here?" But I tell you, if you just use what's in your as you walk down the corridors with cells on each side and they don't have to hear you but under your breath, you can just begin to pray for these prisoners and say, "Lord, I just pray that somebody in here oh Lord will come to know you oh Lord, that you'll speak to him tonight oh Lord, that they'll know you oh Lord even in the sleep oh Father. And if you don't know what to pray, just pray in tongues and God will pray for those through the spirit that need it."

Use whatever is in your hand right where you are. The very first week that I've gotten my drivers license at 16, I submitted it unto God, began driving the church van to pick up intercity kids, to bring them to church and took them to eat after church. I kept doing it for 10 years. I submitted my license unto God the very first week that I got it.

After I graduated from college and computers, I submitted my computer degree and skills unto god and partnered with pastor to develop mountainwings.com, virtualchurch.com, theonlineword.com, and all of the other ministry sites that you see on the banner. I submitted them unto God and one day in my first few years at Bronner Brothers, I can remember that they called me and said, "The server is not up." And I came and looked at it and it had crashed and the hard drive was just gone and I didn't panic, I said, we have backups for this.

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At this time, we were using tapes. And I pulled out the first tape, put it in and tried to restore the data and the tape had gotten corrupted. And I said, that's why I do a second backup so in case the first one gets corrupted, put in the second one and try to pull it up and again, it was messed up. That's when I started to panic. This had all of the accounting data, all of the information for our accounts, all the transactions on it and everything seemed lost and I told them to just give me a minute and I came in and closed door. And I said, "Lord, you called me to this position oh Lord, you've given me the gift of computers oh Lord. And I need you right now oh Father." And I took out that hard drive and held it in my hands and said, "Lord I believe that if you brought Lazarus back from the dead oh Lord, I believe with enough faith you can bring back to life this hard drive."

I prayed a prayer of faith, put it back in the computer, didn't do anything different. Booted it up, all of the files were restored. And I tell you, it was something that I didn't learn at Georgia Tech. Something that my mentors couldn't train me on. Something that years of practice couldn't teach me how to do. That only the anointing that breaks the yoke could do. So, if you will submit your gift, your profession, that which is in your hand, your children unto him, I tell you, he'll use it. He'll use it for his glory.

And even if that was a 15 year old boy that -- he was in high school here recently, and he was going through the lunch line and he had his lunch in his hands and the cafeteria worker, she said, "I hear you singing, can you sing something for me?" And he stopped there in the middle of his lunch line, many of you may have seen the video and he said that he didn't even know she was recording it. He said, "I'll sing for you." And he began to use his gift, he said he just closed his eyes and sang unto the Lord.

He said, he forgot about he was in a school. Forgot about he was in a lunch line. Forgot about his problems. He just leaned over with his lunch in his hands and sang I won't complain and the anointing hit him and he began speaking in tongues in the middle of the song and the lady put it on Facebook and it became viral. It got over 2,000 comments on the video, and he

said he started getting calls from all over the country to come and sing just because he took this little gift in his hand. Didn't worry about his peers hearing them singing this Christian song in a public high school out in the open. He just closed his eyes and worshipped God. He said he's been getting calls from every state in the nation, even international places like Jamaica, all over the world.

And even this young man, we called him ourselves to come and minister at our revival and he will be the singer for two nights of our revival, just from him using the gift of God that was on his life. So, I ask you as I close today, what is in your hand? Thank you for tuning in today for Brothers of The Word because brother you need the word.

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