

“Hold out your hand” Mark chapter 3 verse 5

I want to encourage you today to hold out your hand to God. I'm willing to stick my neck out and say that if you do that then you will receive something from him.

I can't tell you what it will be, or even if you will think it is good or not. All I can promise is that whatever God gives you is guaranteed to be for your best good. Jesus says “Who among you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you....know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your father in heaven give good things to those who ask him?”

The person Jesus told to hold out his hand was a man whose hand was deformed. The Pharisees were alert to see whether Jesus would heal on the Sabbath day. They were more concerned about their religious laws than about the plight of the disabled man.

Isn't it funny how both the Pharisees and Jesus were concerned with what could and could not be done on the Sabbath, but because of the contrasting condition of their hearts, their interpretation was different? Of the Pharisees we are told that Jesus was “Grieved at the hardness of their hearts”, but the heart of Jesus was moved by compassion. They were most interested in what could not be done on the Sabbath, Jesus in the opportunities to do good that the Sabbath afforded.

It is inconceivable that God would respond to someone holding his hand out to him with anything other than the thing which would most lead to his best interests. There is a promise in the bible which applies to everyone. It says “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” and, in the words of Jesus, “the one who comes to me, I will never cast out.”

If you hear God prompting you to hold out your hand to him today, then, whether or not you are a Christian, don't hesitate to do so. He will fill it with a blessing, or a challenge, a commission, a word of comfort, his provision, a word, a touch of his love, healing, restoration, forgiveness.....(I could go on for a very long time).

Just be sure - whatever he gives, his intention is always for our good

Prayer

Thank you, Father, that what you want for me is always what is the best for me. I hold out my hand to you in faith, believing that you are a good God who is incapable of giving me anything bad. Give me the grace to receive whatever you allow in my life as a gift from you, and help me to know that it is from you and how to respond to it. May your name be glorified in my life. In Jesus' name, amen.

All these devotionals can be found on our website inghamitechurch.org on the 'Resources' page. Click on the link to go there.