

Month #13

God had a job for Moses to do. God had given Moses clear instructions that he was to go speak to Pharaoh. He was to be God's messenger to tell Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go.

Did you ever stop to think how unlikely God's choice of Moses was, at least on the surface? After all, for someone to be God's spokesperson, he had to be able to speak with authority and to declare God's words clearly without hesitation. But Moses described himself as "slow of speech" and as having "a slow tongue." Eloquent? Hardly. Able to speak with authority? Not really. Tongue-tied? Probably. Some have even suggested that Moses suffered from stuttering.

In the process of demonstrating to Moses that what he needed for the task would be provided, God asked him this question: "What is that in your hand?" The answer Moses gave was that it was simply a "rod," that is, a piece of wood designed to keep animals in line. Just a piece of wood. That's all. Just a piece of wood.

But when Moses threw it on the ground as God told him, it became a snake. Unbelievable. And when he picked it up as God told him, the snake became a rod again. All of which was to demonstrate that God was sending Moses to Pharaoh and that God would enable him to accomplish what was needed.

Similarly, God asks us, "What's in your hand?" Some might answer, "It's a piano, Lord. Just a piano." Others might respond, "It's a calculator, Lord. Just a calculator." Or, "It's a mop, Lord. Just a mop." Or, "It's a hammer, Lord. Just a hammer."

On the surface, those answers might appear to be correct. After all, a piano is just a piano, right? A calculator is just a calculator, right? A mop is just a mop, right? And a hammer? Well, it's just a hammer. At first glance, that's all they are.

But in God's hands, when used by God's people who are empowered by the Holy Spirit, a piano can become an instrument of praise and worship. A calculator can become a holy tool of counting for God's glory. A mop can create a loving atmosphere of cleanliness and warmth. A hammer can build strong doors for a church or a baby's crib for the needy.

What's in your hand today here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church? Whatever it is, will you allow it to be used as a demonstration of God's holiness and power and as a means of sharing the good news of the Gospel? Think about it: If Moses could be enabled by God for the task at hand, don't you think that God can do the same for you?