

Binding The Hands Of Jesus

Introduction. Matthew 27:1-2 says that they “bound” Jesus. It was a practice then, even as today, to “bind the hands” of the prisoner when He was taken before men of high rank. You really cannot do much damage when your hands are bound.

Jesus is not here in the flesh today, but it is still possible to “bind” His hands. His power today is His word, the gospel, the New Testament (Romans 1:16). The gospel has been left in the hands of “earthen vessels” and they must not be hindered in their efforts to spread it (2 Corinthians 4:7). He has left His will and what hinders its enforcement is “binding the hands of Jesus.”

I. Preachers Bind The Hands Of Jesus

- A. By teaching a perverted gospel.
 - 1. It is like adding salt to water, like sowing weeds and oats together.
 - 2. Can we add doctrines like man is born in sin, the Pope is head of the church, the Lord will reign on an earthly throne, etc., without penalty?
 - 3. Their fate before God is plainly stated in Galatians 1:8-9.
- B. By “soft soaping” the gospel for the favor of men.
 - 1. We need to preach in love and use grace in our speech (Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 4:6), but “soft soaping in the pulpit will not cleanse the sinner in the pew.”
 - 2. What if a preacher never preached anything except what you wanted to hear? Could he do you any good? What if a doctor never told you anything except what you wanted to hear?
 - 3. In order for you to “walk worthy” (Ephesians 4:1), you need to hear about dancing, drinking, gambling, immodest apparel, inappropriate language, pornography, and tobacco and drug abuse.
 - 4. Furthermore, one has to be built up in the faith, so the preacher must address lessons of sound doctrine so that can occur.
- C. Christ wants His messengers to “preach the word” (2 Timothy 4:2). When you fail to “uphold hands” in the truth, you are guilty of “binding the hands of Jesus.”

II. Elders Bind The Hands Of Jesus

- A. Elders are guilty when they fail to “feed the flock” (1 Peter 5:2).
 - 1. The idea of “feeding the flock of God” is the same as to “pastor” them. Many elders seem to think that this only calls for assembling the flock two or three times a week and give them a regular supply of spiritual food (Hebrews 5:12-14).
 - 2. But elders must make sure that each member is fed well. The only food is the word of God. In classes, the elders must supply good teachers, proper equipment for teaching, good scriptural literature, a good system of study, and proper personal teaching. Any child not fed will soon perish (1 Peter 2:2).

3. Many congregations leave this all to the preacher and it forces him to be a “pastor” when he is not.
- B. By failing to oversee “willingly.”
 1. Not by constraint but willingly means not doing the job simply out of obligation or because “someone has to do it.”
 2. But because the elder has freely and willingly chosen to carry out this valuable work (cp. 1 Timothy 3:1).
- C. By not being good examples to the flock in living, attendance, attitude, giving, etc.
 1. They should set the pattern (1 Peter 5:3). Like a captain who says to his men, “Come on let’s go,” instead of “You go do it without me.” In this, they “rule well” (1 Timothy 5:17).
 2. They admonish church members to observe all that Jesus has commanded them (Matthew 28:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:12). This admonition must be given in the spirit of love and based on a continual observation of the whole congregation.
 3. Some lead like an old dog who waits at the forks to see which way the people turn so they can follow them. That is not leadership.
- D. A church is not likely to rise above her eldership.

III. Saints Bind The Hands Of Jesus

- A. By not letting their light shine in the right way (Matthew 5:16).
 1. There are dim lights, flashing lights, and steady lights.
 2. Faithful saints do everything for His glory (1 Peter 2:12).
- B. By not attending the assemblies of the saints (Hebrews 10:25).
 1. You cannot afford to ignore the worship services, but what about other services? They are for our edification (Romans 14:29; 1 Corinthians 14:26). Can I do without this edification for myself and the encouragement I would give to others?
 2. But, do I have to be there every time? Are these studies “good” in God’s sight (2 Timothy 2:15; James 4:17)?
 3. A common excuse is, “They can make it okay without me,” but can you make it okay without us? The body can make it without an arm, but the arm cannot make it without the body.
- C. All church members should ask themselves, “Am I binding the hands of Jesus in my life?” If He is not free to lead you, you are!

Conclusion. If you are not a Christian you are “binding the hands of Jesus” because you are refusing to let Him take charge of your life. Jesus said, “Behold I stand at the door and knock” (Revelation 3:20).