

“They bound Jesus”
(Mk.15:1)

Idioms

- A peculiar way of saying something that can't be understood from the meaning of its separate words. E.g. –
 - Hand over fist: rapidly
 - Hand-me-down: something received after it's no longer needed
 - Hands down: easy, unopposed
 - Hands are tied: unable to help (out of our hands)
 - Hand over: deliver

Bible never uses, “my hands are tied”

- It conveys same thought – Mk.15:1, “they bound Jesus”
- These words fill us with . . .
 1. Righteous indignation
 2. Gratitude
 3. Sadness
 4. Frustration

People still tie His hands,
prevent His work. How?

I. By rejecting the gospel

- Lk.13:34, the contrast: *I wanted...but you...*
 - *Many simply do not want to obey*
- Lk.9:23-24, the cost
 - Decision
 - Denial
 - Death
 - Durability
 - Direction
- Lk.13:31, the condemnation
- Lk.16:...26, the change (of heart)

I. By rejecting the gospel

II. By neglecting our
transformation

Ro.12:2

- And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
 - Not conformed – 1 Pt.1:14, as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance...
 - Transformed – change the essential form or nature of something. *Metamorphosis*
 - Ro.13:11-14

2 Co.3:18 (5:17)

- But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord – 3:18
- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new – 5:17
 - Most condemn national / worldly sins...
 - Most oppose dictators, terrorists...

Different words express same thought

- Mt.5:45, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust [before / after picture]
 - Ac.26:29, Paul...
- 1 Pt.1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

After birth, we grow...

- 1 Tim.4:15, Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all
- Hb.6:1, Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God

Neglect is dangerous

- Gal.4:19, My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you
 - Galatians started well . . .
 - Turned away from zealous pursuit of Christ
 - Paul: Lord's instrument to save them
 - He can warn, plead...
- Gal.4:11, I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain

I. By rejecting the gospel

II. By neglecting the transformation

III. By disregarding prayer

Hb.7:25-26

Jesus, High Priest, lives to intercede for us.

- How many go for hours (or days) without praying?

James 1:5

God has . . .

1. Wisdom to know our need.
2. Power to change things.
3. Care to get involved.

God waits to hear our prayers

- Some tie His hands by ignoring prayer until everything else fails
 - James 1:6-7, lack of faith
 - James 4:2-3, worldliness
 - Worldly seek wrong things through
 - . . . Selfish, worldly prayers
 - . . . no praying at all

James' audience theoretically came to God but retained a self-sufficient attitude

I. By rejecting the gospel

II. By neglecting the transformation

III. By disregarding prayer

**IV. By refusing to do our part
in the work of the church**

Hebrews 13:20-21

- Goal of this epistle: exhortation (22)
 - To stir them up to love and good works (10:24)
 - God will not forget their good works (6:10)

When we fail to do our part,
the Lord cannot work through us –
we tie His hands

Rev.3:15-17

- Individuals must do the work
- We will be judged as individuals
- Day of Judgment...