

## **Have you bound the hands of Jesus?**

**If you would, please open your bibles to Mark 15:1**

**Mar 15:1** And straightway in the morning the chief priests with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him up to Pilate.

As we read this, it is easy for our hearts to be filled with sadness, knowing that they bound the hands of our Lord and Master.

Leading the Son of God to be tried for crimes he did not commit.

We can also have a little righteous indignation for the crowd that bound Jesus in such a way. After all he was not just some ordinary man, he is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Emanuel, God with us, the Prince of Peace.

Yet there are many that are binding the hands of Jesus in a figurative way today.

In order to see the point, let's look at some ways we can be guilty of binding the hands of Jesus.

### **1. By refusing to obey the gospel.**

- A. It was Jesus' great love for us that he gave up heaven.
- B. Left the glory he had in heaven and died a painful death, so that we may be saved.
- C. Even today, through his gospel, He pleads with all to take advantage of his suffering that he did for all of us.
- D. He does not want us to suffer for the guilt of our own sins. His tender invitation is still offered today, if you would turn your bibles to Mathew 11:28-30

**Mat 11:28** Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

**Mat 11:29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

**Mat 11:30** for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

### **What a loving invitation**

But when one refuses to obey the gospel, the hands of Jesus are bound.

He has done the will of the father  
He has put away death forever if we only do the fathers will,  
just like Jesus did.

**There is no way for the sacrifice of Jesus to touch one whom does not obey. For him or her, the death of Jesus is in vain.**

**And Jesus' hands are bound unable to save you.**

**Is it true of you?**

**It is if you have not obeyed the gospel by obeying the commands of Jesus,**

Mark 16:15-16

**Mar 16:15** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation.

**Mar 16:16** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned.

## And through the Holy Spirit Peter in Acts 2:38

**Act 2:38** And Peter *said* unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Is this true of you? Have you allowed Jesus sacrifice to be in vain for you?**

**And if it is, then you will one day have to face the righteous indignation of Jesus himself. Turn with me to 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**

**2Th 1:7** and to you that are afflicted rest with us, at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with the angels of his power in flaming fire,

**2Th 1:8** rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus:

**2Th 1:9** who shall suffer punishment, *even* eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

**IF you wait till then, it will be too late, no second chances and eternity in the place were the worm never dies.**

**Mar 9:44** *where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.* And again in Isaiah 66:24

**Isa 66:24** And they shall go forth, and look upon the dead bodies of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

**But even those who have obeyed the gospel can be guilty of binding the hands of the Lord.**

**You say how? One way is by refusing to be transformed.**

**This transformation involves a renewal of the mind, turn with me if you would to Romans 12:1-2**

**Rom 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service. **Rom 12:2** And be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, and ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

And again in Ephesians 4:20-24

**Eph 4:20** But ye did not so learn Christ;

**Eph 4:21** if so be that ye heard him, and were taught in him, even as truth is in Jesus:

**Eph 4:22** that ye put away, as concerning your former manner of life, the old man, that waxeth corrupt after the lusts of deceit;

**Eph 4:23** and that ye be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

**Eph 4:24** and put on the new man that after God hath been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.

This renewal happens when we read study and meditate upon the Word of God.

**You know your mind must be on spiritual things to be spiritual.**

If you would turn with me to 1 Pet 1:23-2:2

**1Pe 1:23** having been begotten again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God, which liveth and abideth.

**1Pe 1:24** for, All flesh is as grass, and all the glory thereof as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower falleth:

**1Pe 1:25** But the word of the Lord abideth for ever. And this is the word of good tidings which was preached unto you.

**1Pe 2:1** Putting away therefore all wickedness, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

**1Pe 2:2** as newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile that ye may grow thereby unto salvation;

Turn with me if you would to James 1:21

**Jam 1:21** Wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

But many Christians neglect and not receive with meekness the implanted word, allowing other things to take precedence in our lives, binding the hands of Jesus.

That is what we do if we do not change and grow in Christ.

Are we guilty of this?

We are if we neglect to study the bible on our own.

Is the only time you open you bible is in this building?

Do we fail to take the opportunity to study with others?

Here we have the words of life which has the power and the words which can save souls and we leave it on a shelf?

How can we neglect such a great gift?

**We can be guilty of binding the hands of Christ if we refuse to pray.**

**He took the form of man just for this very purpose.**

**Turn with me to Hebrews 2:17-18**

**Heb 2:17** Wherefore it behooved him in all things to be made like unto his brethren, that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

**Heb 2:18** for in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted.

**Its Jesus who has made it possible for us to boldly approach God's throne of grace in prayer.**

**Hebrews 4:14-16**

**Heb 4:14** Having then a great high priest, who hath passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

**Heb 4:15** For we have not a high priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but one that hath been in all points tempted like as without sin.

**Heb 4:16** Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help in time of need.

**What a sacrifice Jesus made for us and he cannot make intercession for us if we do not even pray.**

**What a privilege is wasted if we do not.**

**Turn with me to Heb 7:25**

**Heb 7:25** Wherefore also he is able to save to the uttermost them that draw near unto God through him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

**You tie the hands of Christ when you do not pray, since you do not draw near to God in prayer.**

**There is another way to bind the hands of our Lord, by refusing to do our part in the church.**

**Turn with me to Ephesians 1:22-23**

**Eph 1:22** and he put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church,

**Eph 1:23** which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

**And again in 1 Corinthians 12:27**

**1Co 12:27** Now ye are the body of Christ, and severally members thereof.

**As members one of another, we are to care for one another,**

**Do you take care of your brother and sisters?**

**Are you concerned for the physical and spiritual health?**

## Were does this fall in your priorities?

Don't you realize that a lot of the help Christ gives us is through each other, by mutual edification?

Turn with me to Romans 12:5-13

**Rom 12:5** so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and severally members one of another.

**Rom 12:6** And having gifts differing according to the grace that was given to us, whether prophecy, according to the proportion of our faith;

**Rom 12:7** or ministry, to our ministry; or he that teacheth, to his teaching;

**Rom 12:8** or he that exhorteth, to his exhorting: he that giveth, with liberality; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.

**Rom 12:9** Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

**Rom 12:10** In love of the brethren be tenderly affectioned one to another; in honor preferring one another;

**Rom 12:11** in diligence not slothful; fervent in spirit; **serving** the Lord;

**Rom 12:12** rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing stedfastly in prayer;

**Rom 12:13** communicating to the necessities of the saints; given to hospitality.

**How can he work through us if our thoughts are just that..... of us? We must be serving each other, like Christ was a servant for all.**

Turn with me to John 13:3

**Joh 13:3** *Jesus*, knowing that the Father had given all the things into his hands, and that he came forth from God, and goeth unto God,

**Joh 13:4** riseth from supper, and layeth aside his garments; and he took a towel, and girded himself.

**Joh 13:5** Then he poureth water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' **feet**, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

**Joh 13:6** So he cometh to Simon Peter. He saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

**Joh 13:7** Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt understand hereafter.

**Joh 13:8** Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

**Joh 13:9** Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

**Joh 13:10** Jesus saith to him, He that is bathed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

**Joh 13:11** For he knew him that should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

**Joh 13:12** So when he had washed their feet, and taken his garments, and sat down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

**Joh 13:13** Ye call me, Teacher, and, Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

**Joh 13:14** If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

**Joh 13:15** For I have given you an example, that ye also should do as I have done to you.

**Joh 13:16** Verily, verily, I say unto you, a servant is not greater than his lord; neither one that is sent greater than he that sent him.

**Are you following his example, are you serving as you should?**

**Have you considered it this way before, that by failing to do our part, we handicap the body of Christ? Turn with me to**

**Phi 2:13** for it is God who worketh in you both to will and to work, for his good pleasure.

**And again in**

**Act 10:35** but in every nation he that feareth him, and **worketh** righteousness, is acceptable to him.

**You see it is a work, it is a journey, not a resting place**

**Heb 6:9** But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak:

**Heb 6:10** for God is not unrighteous to forget your work and the love which ye showed toward his name, in that ye ministered unto the saints, and still do minister.

**Heb 6:11** And we desire that each one of you may show the same diligence unto the fulness of hope even to the end:

**Heb 6:12** that ye be not sluggish, but imitators of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Do we allow our neglect, or apathy, or lukewarmness to either have the whole body suffer or force others to do double duty.

Not all people have the same talents, but every person can do something to assist the body. Are you there for the new Christians, are you there for the widow's and the ladies in the rest home?

Lets not forget about what Jesus said about being lukewarm, turn with me if you would to

**Rev 3:14** And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God:

**Rev 3:15** I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

**Rev 3:16** So because thou art lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spew thee out of my mouth.

Yes, it is obvious there are ways we can bind the hands of Christ today, but lets look at one more.

By refusing to share the gospel with the lost

Let's read some scripture;

**Mat 28:19** Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit:

**Mat 28:20** teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

And again in

**Mar 16:15** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation.

**Mar 16:16** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned.

Jesus has made his disciples to be his hands in taking the gospel to the lost.

In every case of conversion recorded in Acts, Jesus used a disciple to tell the good news, and Jesus works the same way today.

But to what degree do we keep the Good News to our selves. We have bound the hands of Christ,

He needs us today to obey the commands of God that we teach others baptizing them and teaching them all things.

Let's open our bibles to Mat 10:25-28

Mat 10:25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

Mat 10:26 Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.

Mat 10:27 What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.

Mat 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

**Are we binding the hands of Christ in our life?**

**You know every day countless souls die with no hope of eternal life, and this need not be.**

**We should look at each individual as someone if not saved will suffer tremendously.**

**If you drove by and saw someone drowning or a house on fire you would surely stop and help, yet**

there are people heading for hell that we do not have the courage to tell the gospel too.

Sadly, in too many cases the primary concern of Christians is the pursuit of pleasure and acquisition of worldly treasures.

What if someone had a cure for cancer and told no one. Would you not be outraged by the callousness of whomever did that. Well this cure would be only for this short time on this world and would not help them with eternity. Here you have the gospel which can save their soul for eternity and you fail to shout it from the rooftops?

Yes, we can be guilty of binding the hands of Christ by not allowing his sacrifice to save us, His blood to wash away our sins, His love to transform us.

By not being one of his workers, we can to bind his hands.

We can also allow Christ's sacrifice to go in vain being a Christian, if we fail to walk in the light as he is in the light allowing the blood of Christ to wash away our sins.

## **Are we like the young lamb?**

### **SHEEP DON'T WALLOW**

**Author Unknown**

**There is an old story told about a lamb and its mother. It seems the lamb passed a pig pen each morning on the way to the pasture with its mother. Watching the pigs wallow in the mud seemed like fun, and on an especially hot day, the lamb asked his mother if he could jump the fence and wallow in the cool mud. She replied, "No." Then the lamb asked the usual question, "Why?" The mother just said, "Sheep don't wallow." This did not satisfy the lamb. He felt she was not being fair, overreacting, and didn't have the right to tell him what he could or could not do! So, as soon as the mother was out of sight, the lamb ran to the pig pen and jumped the fence. He was soon feeling the cool mud on his feet, his legs, and his stomach. After a few moments, he decided he had better go back to his mother, but he couldn't. He was stuck! Mud and wool don't mix. His pleasure had become his prison. He cried out and was rescued by the farmer. When cleaned and returned to the fold, the mother said to the lamb, "Remember, sheep don't wallow"**

**Sin is like that. It looks so nice, so inviting. We think we can escape from it anytime we wish, but it is not always so. Sinful pleasures soon become prisons.**

**Do not tie the hands of Christ by living sinfully and I pray if you're a Christian that has fallen away, you take advantage of Christ's sacrifice and repent today.**

**And if you are sitting here this evening and not a Christian, not taking advantage of the sacrifice of Christ, I pray that you take this opportunity to become a Christian tonight.**

**Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God?**

**Joh 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.

**Are you willing to repent, to turn away from your sins?**

**Luk 13:3** I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all in like manner perish.

**Are you willing to make the confession of your belief in Christ?**

**Mat 10:32** Every one therefore who shall **confess** me before men, him will I also **confess** before my Father who is in heaven.

**Mat 10:33** But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father who is in heaven.

**Are you willing to have your sins washed away and start a life living for our Savior?**

**Act 22:16** And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name.

**I pray it so, and I ask that you come forward now as we sing this song of invitation.**