

ST. MATTHEW AME CHURCH
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP
WINTER SERIES:

MY LIFE IS IN HIS HAND

*"In His Hand is the life
of every creature and
the breath of all
mandkind."*

JOB 12:10 NIV



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Women's Bible Study Fellowship
Saturday, March 12, 2022

Winter Series: "My Life is in Your Hand"

"In His hand is the life of every living creature. And breath of all mankind. "
Job 12:10

Session III: "Do Not Forget"

"Be careful that you do not forget. "Deuteronomy 8:11a

Background

•Job 12:10 is a reply from Job to Zophar (one of the three friends who came to visit Job during his test and trials).

•Job was a prosperous farmer living in the land of Uz. He had thousands of sheep, camels, and other livestock, a large family, and many servants. Suddenly Satan, the accuser, came before God claiming that Job was trusting God only because he was wealthy and everything was going well for him. And so, the testing of Job's faith began.

•Satan was allowed to destroy Job's children, servants, livestock, herdsman and home; but Job continued to trust in God. Next Satan attacked Job physically, covering him with painful sores. Job's wife told him to curse God and die (Job 2:9), but Job suffered in silence.

•Three of Job's friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar came to visit Job. At first, they silently grieved with Job. But when they began to talk about the reasons for Job's tragedies, they told him that sin had caused his suffering. They told him to confess his sins and turn back to God.

•Job's friends had been berating him, telling him that he was suffering because he thought too highly of himself. They believed suffering only happened because someone was in sin and God was punishing them.

• Job's straightforward answer to his friends was that he understood that every life is in God's hand.

God's Hand Represents:

The Bible frequently uses a technique called anthropomorphism which "represents an understanding of God using human descriptors." God does not have literal hands, and yet His hands are mentioned often.

Hand represents a metaphor for:

•The omnipotence of God

"The Lord's right hand is lifted high; the Lord's right hand has done mighty things." Psalm 118:16

•The creative power of God

"My own hand laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I summon them, they all stand up together." Isaiah 48:13

•The mastery of God

"For the Lord your God did to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. He did this so that all the people of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God. " Joshua 4:23-24

•The promises of God

"But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery from the power of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. Deut. 7:8

• The love of God

"with a mighty hand and outstretched arm; His love endures forever" Psalm 136:12

"See, I have engraved you on the palms on my hands; your walls are ever before me. " Isaiah 49:16

•*The authority of God*

"Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand, he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country." Exodus 6:1

•*The source of protection and strength*

"So, do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God, I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

Review of Session I- "It All Started With God"

"Through Him all things were made, without Him nothing was made. "John 1:3

- If you want to know why you were placed on the planet, you must begin with God. God's hand was on you from the start.
- You exist only because God wills that you exist. "It is in Christ that we find out who we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ, He had His eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, Part of the overall purpose He is working out in everything and everyone. " Ephesians 1:11
- With God you are something valuable and unique, apart from God, you are nothing, and if you try to live without Him, you will be abandoning the purpose for which you were made.
- You must be led by God. There are other forces that can drive your life, but they can lead to the same dead end; unused potential, unnecessary stress, and an unfulfilled life.
- Without a purpose, life is motion without meaning, activity without direction, and events without reason.
- Remember, God was thinking of you, long before you ever thought about Him.

Review of Session II-"Place It All In His Hand"

"Cast your burdens on the Lord, and He shall sustain you. He shall not permit the righteous to be moved. "Psalm 55:22

- God's hand is always moving, meaning He is always at work in our lives. God is really in control of our lives.
- The more we try to take circumstances into our own hands, the more difficult it will be to achieve your goals. Let go and let God take care of the things you worry about. He wants to help, so let Him help.
- God wants us to cast our cares on Him, but often we continue to bear them ourselves, even when we say we are trusting Him.
- Worry and anxiety over life are commonplace. "Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own troubles. "Matthew 6:34
- Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.

Remember, today is the tomorrow, you were worried about yesterday.

Session III-"Don't Forget"

"Be careful you do not forget " Deuteronomy 8:10-11a

•Verse 10 is traditionally cited as the reason we say grace before or after meals. Its purpose however was to warn the Israelites not to forget when their needs and wants were satisfied. In times of plenty, we often take credit for our prosperity and become proud that our own hard work and cleverness have made us who we are. It is easy to get so busy collecting and managing wealth that we push God right out of our lives. But it is God who gives us everything we have, and it is God who asks us to manage it for Him.

- Most people can't point to specific situations when God stepped in and worked in their own life. But that doesn't mean God hasn't been doing so behind the scenes. Sometimes we need to take a step back and look at the big picture of our lives in order to see God's hand in our lives. Rest assured, God is in control and He has guided your entire life so far, from the little everyday tasks to the life-changing events.
- No one likes to face challenges, but God uses even the tough times to work in our lives. Sometimes God uses these times to help us grow or to benefit those around us. He may use challenges to stop us from doing something harmful or motivate us to do what is right.

- No matter what we have faced in life, God's hand was always moving, meaning that He always worked in our lives.
- The Creator never neglects the creation. God is looking after us all the time.

DON'T FORGET WHO IS HOLDING YOUR HAND!