

# From the Handbook for Business, the Bible

## # 37: What do you have in your hand

Let's talk about an amazing historical event that took place over 3,000 years ago! And how God chose Moses to lead Israel to freedom after 400 years of slavery in Egypt.

At 80 years of age, the plan was for Moses to demand Pharaoh let the Israelites go free.

Moses was horrified, fearful that his own people wouldn't listen to him, so why would Pharaoh? And, he had another great excuse, telling Jehovah that, "I've never been a good speaker" (Ex 4:10). Not to be outdone, God challenged him with a simple question, then an amazing display...

*"What do you have in your hand?" Moses replied, "A walking stick." The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground." He did and it turned into a snake... Then the LORD said, reach out, take the snake by the tail" - he did, and it turned back into a walking stick" Exodus 4:2-4 NIRV*

That got his attention; so, Moses took that walking stick and accomplished the mission!

### What business lessons can we take from this ancient event?

There are several, but THREE stand out...

- # 1: The amazing things that happen when we obediently join in with God's plans
- # 2: We don't need much in our hand to change the world and make it a better place
- # 3: Like Moses, we too often focus on what we don't have instead of what we do have.

Apart from Moses with his stick, remember, David only had a slingshot; Jacob had a few 3<sup>rd</sup> rate livestock and built an empire; each was on a mission to change the course of history!

### What do people have in their hands they could use?

There are many things; for starters, we are all fearfully & wonderfully made (Ps 139) each with unique, God-given gifts, talents & skills that can be used for His glory by helping others:

...You have time and finances to give

...You surely have an idea, a vision, a system, a solution, a strategy, a story to impact lives

...You have a business asset to use, as so many did in Scripture (e.g., Abraham, Job, Lydia)

... And if you're still unsure, ask your closest friends for their thoughts!

**Any of these would surely be equal to a walking stick when God is in it. Here are 3 examples:**

**Nick Vujicic** was born with no arms or legs but it didn't stop him becoming a motivational author/speaker; his message is powerful: *"If God can use a man without arms and legs to be His hands and feet, then He will certainly use any willing heart"*

**Demos Shakarian**, with just a spiritual gift of helps (1 Corin, 12:28 - like a church deacon) was called to start a fellowship specifically to help men; today the FGBMI is active in 190 countries!

God gave **Robert LeTourneau** an inventive mind; leaving school at 14 in 1902 with little formal education but went on to hold over 300 patents that revolutionized the earth moving industry.

**Counsel: God challenged Moses; He challenged these three men. Now I sense He's challenging you to use whatever He has put in your hands or mind to make your businesses, your marketplace & your community a better place, and in so doing, advance His kingdom.**