

STRIKING HANDS  
II.Kings 10;15

*On Trial*

It is a genuine pleasure to be back in Columbus for another year. I want you to know that the whole Wroten family is delighted to be here again. I want you to feel free to let us know anything that we need to do. A person might lie sick for weeks and I would not know it. If you know it do not keep it a secret unless the sick person wants you to.

The families of the sick very highly compliment the ministry in that they notify the doctor but feel that the preacher knows about the illness by intuition.

But I come to you to day..this first Sunday of the new conference year to think with you about Hand Shaking. Let me read to you the text.....

"Is thy heart right as my heart is with thy heart?"

Jehonadab replied.."It is."

"If it be give me thine hand."

And he gave him his hand; and he took him up into the chariot.

It is interesting to observe the things agreed upon by hand shakes. Just to stand off and watch it some might think of it as silly. When I was a boy all the women would kiss each other up at the meeting house. That looked silly to me but they got lots of pleasure out of it. Shaking hands has its meaning.

1. It is used in making new acquaintances. You feel right strange if you meet a person for the first time and he does not offer his hand.
2. It is also used as an expression of greeting between good friends..what a pleasure it is to grip the hand of an old friend and say " John I am glad to see you."
3. It is used as an act of sympathy. I was called to Dumas yesterday to bury a good friend, who was the mother of one of my good friends...I think the loved ones were helped as a multitude of friends grasped their hands in sympathy. Some how or other it just lifts a person up a bit...dark clouds have been blown their way by a mysterious hand.
4. The hand shake has been used so much in bidding farewell to loved one or friend.
5. It has been used to lift people out of distress. Jesus saw Peter sinking and stretched forth His hand and lifted him up to safety.You have seen the sinner break down un-

der the influence of a handshake. There is the man down in the dumps and broken to pieces, feeling that he is the meanest man in the world..and a person steps up and grips his hand and says, "Friend , God loves you..come on and snap out of this." I have felt the victory sensation in the handshake of hundreds of boys and girls men and women as they gave their hearts to God.

It is used quite a good deal for sealing a covenant....

But listen it may be used to seal a covenant that is evil. That is the kind our text brings to us to day. Jehu was one of the bad men of the O.T. He was a Golden calf worshipper but to get the support, politically, of the Jehovah worshippers he set out to destroy the house of Ahab and the house of Baal. With this pretention he met Jehonadab, who was a good man and known to be good by all the people. Jehu wanted to be seen with this good man as such would put him across with Jehovah worshippers..So when he met Jehonadab he put the question.....

" Is thy heart right as my heart is with thy heart...if so give me thy hand." Following this he had performed the most horrible murders. Seventy persons heads were cut off and brought to the gate of the city and lay there in baskets all night so that the people could see them next morning..

Handshakes are bringing just such agreements amongst rulers in the world to day.

But there are some things over which we can shake hands:

1. I will strive harder to be loyal to Christ than I have in the past.
2. I will be true to my own church and uphold it against isms that come along to hurt its influence.
3. I will cooperate more to bring people in touch with the institutions of the church that can help them...You can bring them to Church school, W.S.C.S., E.League, church services, and prayer meeting.
4. I will consecrate myself to the Divine privilege of leading people to the acceptance of Jesus Christ. After all friends if that is not in our program we are not real Christians.
5. Wherein I have been stingy and selfish I will be liberal and sharing.
6. I will think Christ, love Christ, talk Christ and LIVE Christ in spite of the devil and his demons.

To incorporate the above schedule for the year we MUST lay down hate, unforgiveness, jealousy, and littleness...

Jesus, holding these nobler things in mind, says to us....

"IS THINE HEART RIGHT AS MY HEART IS WITH THY HEART...IF IT IS GIVE ME THINE HAND?" Come on let's let HIM see us do just that...here to day.

This is a heart to heart Talk to-night. This is beginning a third year - a Methodist preacher is on trial at various periods - when he joins the cong. the first two years in every charge.

We have been here two years - you asked for us back officially. Usually when a pastor is returned for a 3rd year it means for a quadrennium. But in this case it does not have to.

my policy -

I think you have discovered that I try to be pastor to all the people. If you have any objections I try not to see them.

pastoral visiting - I have always tried to get into each home once and after that go back when there is illness or at other times if I have time. It would be a pleasure to see each family each day if I could.

I have not been in all the homes yet for the first time - why? Because, with sick people, deaths, funerals, meetings of all kinds, sermonizing and a 1000 other things it has been physically impossible -

DO NOT FEEL that I do not want to come or that I don't like you if I come not

to see thee. One family served this happened - circumstance drew me to that home for time in two or three weeks then two weeks passed and I met one of the members of the home - this was the salutation I received "well it seems that you have got folks the way to our house" it is not a matter of getting but a matter of trying to go where need is greatest. no one man can meet every need.

needed visits - your post - call the church office and report illness or new comers - the church sec. will lay that on my desk and I shall do my best to meet it all.

Each family is supposed to be a reporter - and a visitor - Jesus said, "ye are my witnesses"

we have many inactive members in this church - now you can do lots more good visiting than talk and asking them to go to church and offering to take them when you will do by encouraging the pastor for not sitting on your door step every a.m. asking you what he should do that day.

In the text we have some thing about hand shaking -

Do you like to shake hands? not is it as like a fish -

a person that will lay down his life  
to the church because the preacher does  
not get around to see him as often  
as he wants him. It is not thinking  
of Christ he is thinking of himself.

