

April 15, 2012, Second Sunday of Easter
John 20: 19-31, 1 John 1: 1-2:2

In Good Hands

A certain car insurance company has a slogan--- “You’re in good hands with” them. No matter what happens to your car while you’re driving, you can depend on them to take care of everything and get you back on the road.

They are not some cut-rate, unreliable insurance company, they say. They are the best insurance to have, in their humble opinion.

They are so good, according to the ads, that everyone who buys a policy from them will speak of it in the same melodious voice, the voice of the spokesperson who was obviously hired for his really nice voice!

But we all know that no matter how good an insurance policy is, there are times it won’t cover you. There is a deductible to pay, and limits to the coverage, not to mention what happens if the accident is determined to be your fault.

You might be in good hands, but some things slip through those fingers!

But when you’re in God’s hands, nothing slips through. There are no deductibles in God’s plan for us! No exclusions or limits. No exceptions or

fault-finding. Insurance might offer “accident forgiveness,” but God forgives everything when we ask, even things that are not accidents!

When you’re in God’s hands, you’re in the only truly good hands.

God’s hands, after all, created everything in the universe! God’s hands still hold the whole world and everything from the little bitty baby to everybody here and so much more!

God’s hands took on human form in the incarnation, and as the hands of Jesus Christ, they healed the blind, the lame, and the leper, they held little children on his knee, they broke bread and fed the multitudes. They calmed the storm and overturned the tables of the corrupt moneychangers in the temple.

God’s hands, the hands of Christ, are good hands.

They did not hit or slap or spank. They did not hold weapons. They helped and held and blessed and loved.

Good hands.

The apostle Thomas did not believe that Christ was resurrected from the dead. He said that unless he saw the mark of the nails in those good hands, he would not believe.

And then he saw. And he believed.

The mark of the nails convinced him that it really was Christ he was looking at and speaking with.

Because no one else had those marks of the nails and lived, so it must be Christ!

God's good hands have scars. God's good hands suffered the worst that people could do to each other and still those hands live!

Still those hands help and heal and love and serve!

Those hands still bless us and guide us and lead us out of the darkness of sin and death into the light of righteousness and love and hope and peace!

God's good hands, Christ's good hands, still hold us and draw us close to God's heart.

We are in good hands.

Look at your own hands now. The fronts, the backs, the callouses and rough places. The scars and hurts. And remember all the things that your hands have done-----

at home, you cooked to feed your family. Planted a garden. Cut and arranged flowers. Bathed a baby. Hugged your loved ones. Cleaned the house. Mowed the lawn. And so much more!

How do you use your hands at work? Typing, giving medications, fixing cars, painting? Making things. Writing. Putting things on shelves. Making phone calls. Hard physical labor or office work or nursing or teaching or accounting or retail sales or whatever it is you do.

Your hands have much in common with the hands of Christ. Used well, in many ways. Showing the effects of all they have done.

Hands designed by God to do so many things.

Hands intended by God to be good hands.

Now, cup your hands together tightly, as though you are trying to hold water in them.

As though you are carrying water to someone who is dying of thirst and there is no cup or bowl or anything else to take the water to them.

And remember that Christ calls us all to take a cup of cold water to a thirsty world. A world that is dying of thirst.

And you know that the water will leak out from between your fingers and between your hands, and you really want this dying person to get every last drop, so imagine another pair of hands cupped around yours, to help hold the water in, to make the container you are making with your hands more water-tight.

That second pair of hands is God's hands.

Your hands are in good hands----hands that make it possible to save the thirsty world.

Hands that heal the sick, that love the unworthy, that feed the hungry.

Hands that bear the scars of nails, that suffered the worst that people can do to others.

Hands that save us from lives of meaninglessness, from loneliness, from lack of purpose and direction.

Hands that rolled the stone away from the tomb.

Hands that reach out to us to give us the gifts of hope and peace and comfort and love.

You are in good hands. Hands that soothe your hurts and feed your hungry heart. Hands that empower you to serve others. Hands that guide you and lead you home.

Hands that are insurance against the darkness of this world. Hands that make everything that goes wrong right again.

The most grace-filled, merciful, compassionate, and strong hands of God.

May you always abide in those good hands!

Amen!