

**Servants of God  
through  
the laying on of hands**

# Laying on of hands

Hebrews 6:2

“And we shouldn't need to keep teaching about baptisms or about **the laying on of hands** or about people being raised from death and the future judgment.” — *CEV*

From our discussion on baptism, laying on of hands was establishing a relationship between the two parties (disciple & representative of the Body of Christ) and a request for the Spirit to lead the new disciple in ministry

# Laying on of hands in the OT

Numbers 8:9-11

“<sup>9</sup> [To Moses:] And you shall bring the Levites before the tent of meeting and assemble the whole congregation of the people of Israel. <sup>10</sup> When you bring the Levites before Yahweh, the people of Israel shall **lay their hands** on the Levites, <sup>11</sup> and Aaron shall offer the Levites before Yahweh as a wave offering from the people of Israel, that they may **do the service of Yahweh.**”

27:18-20

“<sup>18</sup> So Yahweh said to Moses, “Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man **in whom is the Spirit**, and **lay your hand** on him. <sup>19</sup> Make him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and you shall **commission him in their sight.** <sup>20</sup> You shall **invest** him with some of **your authority**, that **all the congregation** of the people of Israel may obey.”

# Laying on of hands in the NT

Acts 6:1–6

“<sup>1</sup> Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup> And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, brothers, **pick** out from among you seven men of good repute, **full of the Spirit** and of wisdom, whom we will **appoint to this duty**. <sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” <sup>5</sup> And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man **full** of faith and **of the Holy Spirit**, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup> These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and **laid their hands on them**.

# Laying on of hands in the NT

Acts 13:1–3

“<sup>1</sup> Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a [member of the court / lifelong friend] of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. <sup>2</sup> While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” <sup>3</sup> Then after fasting and praying they **laid their hands on them** and sent them off.”

Paul and Barnabas are set apart, commissioned for a new ministry

# Laying on of hands in the NT

1 Timothy 4:14

“Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders **laid their hands** on you.”

1 Timothy 5:22

“Do not be hasty in the **laying on of hands**, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure.”

Those publicly endorsed for entering a ministry should be first examined since their commissioning invites the congregation to place more trust in the disciple.

Having hands laid on, even as a new disciple, implies we are all servants of God

# Which Servant are you?

**Two** kinds of servants/workers

1 Corinthians 3:8-15

“<sup>8</sup> He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his **wages** according to his **labor**.<sup>9</sup> For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. <sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one **take care how he builds** upon it. <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if anyone **builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw** — <sup>13</sup> each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. <sup>14</sup> **If the work** that anyone has built on the foundation **survives**, he will receive a **reward**. <sup>15</sup> If anyone's **work is burned up**, he will **suffer loss**, though **he himself will be saved**, but only as through fire.”

# Which Servant are you?

**Two** kinds of servants/workers

Slave's actions	Slave's consequences
Worker builds with care and quality	His work survives, he is rewarded
Worker does not build with care and quality	His work does not survive, he suffers loss, but is saved

# Which Servant are you?

Luke 19:11-27 (parallel to Matthew 25:14-30)

<sup>11</sup> As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the **kingdom of God** was to appear immediately. <sup>12</sup> He said therefore, “A **nobleman went** into a far country to **receive for himself a kingdom and then return.** <sup>13</sup> Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in **business until I come.**’ <sup>14</sup> But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ <sup>15</sup> When he **returned**, having **received the kingdom**, he ordered these **servants to whom he had given the money** to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business.

<sup>16</sup> The **first** came before him, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.’ <sup>17</sup> And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant! Because you have been **faithful** in a very little, you **shall have authority over ten cities.**’

<sup>18</sup> And the **second** came, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made **five** minas.’ <sup>19</sup> And he said to him, ‘And you are to be over **five cities.**’

# Which Servant are you?

<sup>20</sup> Then another [**third**] came, saying, ‘Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; <sup>21</sup> for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.’ <sup>22</sup> He said to him, ‘I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? <sup>23</sup> Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?’ <sup>24</sup> And he said to those who stood by, ‘Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’ <sup>25</sup> And they said to him, ‘Lord, he has ten minas!’ <sup>26</sup> ‘I tell you that to everyone who has, **more will be given**, but **from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.** <sup>27</sup> But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.’”

# Which Servant are you?

Three out of ten slaves are described

Servant's actions	Servant's consequences
Servant invested wisely and gained 10 more	Placed over 10 cities
Servant invested wisely and gained 5 more	Placed over 5 cities
Servant did nothing for the Master and pronounced "worthless" (vs 22).	Lost even the 1 mina Compare Matthew 25:30

Did any servant end up in the place of Everlasting Judgment? (Likely slave #3)

# Which Servant are you?

Luke 12:35-48

<sup>35</sup> “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup> and be like **men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast**, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> **Blessed** are those **servants** whom the **master finds awake** when he **comes**. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, **blessed** are those servants! <sup>39</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. <sup>40</sup> **You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**”

<sup>41</sup> Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?”

# Which Servant are you?

Luke 12:35-48 (**Four** servants)

<sup>42</sup> And the Lord said, “Who then is the **faithful and wise** manager, whom his master **will set over his household**, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? <sup>43</sup> Blessed is that **servant** whom his **master will find so doing** when he **comes**.

<sup>44</sup> Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.

<sup>45</sup> But if that servant says to himself, ‘**My master** is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, <sup>46</sup> the **master** of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will **cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful**.”

# Which Servant are you?

<sup>47</sup> And that servant **who knew** his master's will but **did not get ready or act** according to his will, will **receive a severe beating**.

<sup>48</sup> But the one **who did not know**, and did what deserved a beating, **will receive a light beating**.

**Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.”**

# Which Servant are you?

## Four kinds of servants/workers

Servant's actions	Servant's consequences
Servant feeds the household. Knows the will of the master and does it.	Will be set as Manager over the Master's household and possessions.
Servant speaks ill of the Master. Abuses others, is corrupt. Knows what to do but does evil.	Is punished, cut to pieces, placed with the unfaithful, the unbelievers.
Servant knows what to do but did nothing for the Master.	Is beaten with severe beating, many strokes. [Like slave in Luke 19:22?]
Servant does not know the will of the Master and so does wrong.	Is beaten very little. Is treated better than he deserves. [Built with hay?]

# Which Servant are you?

We have all been given various gifts, but all have the same commission to submit to God and to make disciples according to our gifts

Matthew 6:33

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Questions ...