



# The Hands of Jesus

Like our own, these hands once were soft and small. Mary surely smiled as this little one's hand clasped her fingers for the first time. As she pondered the future of these tiny hands, did she imagine where they had already been?

Did she know they single-handedly stretched out the heavens, laid the foundations of the earth and all the galaxies beyond her view? These creative and industrious hands had raised each mountain, poured each river and etched their signature into the beauty of the forests, fields and flowers. These strong hands

carved commandments into stone and flung stars into space. Did she know that these same hands had intricately formed her in her mother's womb?

Did she even begin to wonder what these hands would accomplish?

The hands of Jesus tamed the turbulent tempest and led the lame to leap.

They compassionately touched a desperate leper, a broken-hearted lover and energetic children.

These guiding hands led a blind man to believe and see...

Healing hands that grasped a mother's hand to quench a raging fever.

Life-giving hands that raised a young girl back to life.

Confident hands that offered Peter peace above the clamoring waves.

They were the hands of a gentle shepherd.

But weak they were not, for these strong and pervasive hands also crafted a whip to cleanse the temple. These fingers scribbled a message so penetrating that it paralyzed those set to throw stones. These hands fashioned, formed, protected, confronted, poured, produced, embraced, washed, built, blessed, filled and flooded.

These hands disposed enemies and provoked Pharisees. They touched the untouchable, loved the unlovable and suffered the unthinkable.

Unimaginable, these hands humbly washed the feet of their betrayer. They extended kindness and blessed babies, but received rejection and withstood whippings.

To some, these guiltless hands appeared helpless—taking nails which held them to a cross. A carpenter's hands hammered to wooden beams shed blood to save a dying world. These hands that once had given life, now laid lifeless, still...and silent.

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