**GOD CAN USE TWO STICKS OF WOOD**

**PART 2**

**INTRO:**

**Last week we began a two part series on how God can use two sticks of wood.**

**1.  We Looked at Two Companion Sticks**

**\*\*We saw where God told Ezekiel to get two sticks and to write Judah on one and Joseph on the other and put them both in one hand.**

**\*\*This represented how God would bring together His people in Israel which represents how God will bring together His people in Heaven!**

**\*\*There will be One People (Society), One Power (Supremacy), One Prince (Savior), and One Parish (Sanctuary).**

**2. We Looked at Two Carrying Sticks**

**\*\*We saw these two sticks that carried the very precious Ark in the Old Testament.**

     **A. We Looked at the Load**

          **1. The Ark was the Presence of God.**

          **2. The Ark was the Power of God.**

          **3. The Ark was the Proof of God**

**\*\*We said that God could sure use some Carrying Sticks (stick people) that will carry God’s presence, God’s power, and God’s proof with them everywhere they go.**

      **B. We Looked at the Levites**

           **1. We looked at the kind of Poles that were used.**

                **a. We noticed these Poles Sparkled.**

                **b. We noticed these Poles’ Strength.**

**\*\*We concluded that God sure could use some poles (stick people) that had Sparkle and Strength to carry His presence, power, and proof into the church house!**

           **2. We looked at the kind of People that were used.**

                **a. We noticed the Levites Sanctification**

**\*\*They made sure they were unspotted and unstained.**

                **b. We noticed the Levites Shoulders**

**\*\*We realized it was important for Christians to be the shoulders that Lift Up The Christ, Lift Up The Christians, and Lift Up The Church without keeping a chip on their shoulders!**

**\*\*Overall, we said it was good for us to be stick people that God could use to be Companion Sticks and Carrying Sticks.**

**\*\*Today we will continue looking at how God Can Use Two Sticks Of Wood with three more examples.**

**I.  GOD USES TWO CARETAKER STICKS**

**Psalms 23:4**  **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

**\*\*This Psalm was written during the time that David faced Goliath, and David was a shepherd boy or a caretaker of the sheep.**

**\*\*We know that David had a slingshot and five smooth stones, but he also had two sticks (a rod and a staff).**

**I Samuel 17:43** [**And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves?**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Samuel-17-43/)

**\*\*Since David is a type of Christ and a shepherd (caretaker) who carried two sticks, I believe the Lord is our shepherd (caretaker) who carries His two caretaker sticks!**

      **A.  Notice the Conquering Stick**

**\*\*The conquering stick is the rod, and it conquers things.**

            **1. It’s a Data Stick that Conquers the Data**

**Leviticus 27:32** **And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, *even* of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.**

**\*\*Don’t ever think that God has lost count of how many is in the Flock and how many is in the Family!**

               **a. He is counting the Herd and keeping a record.**

               **b. He is counting the Holy and keeping a record.**

           **2. It’s a Disciplinary Stick that Conquers the Defiant**

**Proverbs 13:24**  **He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.**

**\*\*Betimes** – **It means early or to seek early.  In other words, if you love your kids you will seek to discipline them early – when they are young!**

**\*\*If you let them by with defiant behavior and not use a stick when needed, you are really showing them that you hate them!**

**\*\*Even the Lord uses the rod of correction to chastise He’s children (His sheep).**

**\*\*The Disciplinary Stick will stop Bad Tantrums, Bad Talk, Bad Tones, Bad Tempers, and Bad Trouble!**

           **3. It’s a Deadly Stick that Conquers the Dangerous**

**\*\*The caretaker uses it to . . .**

               **a. Kill Off Deadly Animals**

               **b. Keep Off Deadly Attackers**

**\*\*David hit Goliath between the eyes, but Goliath fell forward!  I believe the Lord hit Goliath with His Conquering Stick on the backside of his head to make him fall forward!  It was a fixed fight!**

**\*\*Thank God the Lord has taken His rod and fixed some fights for me and you!**

      **B. Notice the Comforting Stick**

**\*\*The comforting stick is the staff, and it comforts us!**

           **1. There is a Crook in the Staff**

**\*\*This crook is for grabbing the leg or the neck of the sheep or lamb to protect it from High Weeds, Hurtful Wounds, and Harmful Wandering.**

           **2. There is a Certainty in the Staff**

 **\*\*We trust and lean on the staff that the shepherd holds, and when we do we’re leaning upon His Supervision, His Support, and His Strategy.**

**\*\*Thank God for these two sticks my Caretaker uses; one is for conquering some things in my life, and the other is for comforting me in this life!**

**II. GOD USED TWO COOKING STICKS**

**I Kings 17:12** **And she said, *As* the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I *am* gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.**

      **A. These Two Cooking Sticks Are Significant**

            **1. These two sticks are necessary for Fire**

                **a. Sometimes you catch fire from a stick or two**

                    **you got from the Singing.**

                **b. Sometimes you catch fire from a stick or two**

                    **you got from the Sermon.**

**\*\*Have you ever caught on fire and got fed all because you grabbed onto a couple of sticks you found in a song or in a sermon?**

**\*\*There were many sticks this woman could have picked up, but God had two significant sticks just for her fire!**

            **2. These two sticks are needed for the Fuel**

                **a. You can get a stick of fuel wherever you Stoop.**

                **b. You can get a stick of fuel whenever you Study.**

**\*\*Have you ever gotten filled up fuel and got fed after grabbing a stick of powerful Holy Ghost fuel when you stooped and prayed or when you studied and prayed?**

**\*\*When you come to church come looking for at least two good sticks in the service that can get you on fire and give you some fuel!**

      **B. These Two Cooking Sticks Are Symbolic**

           **1. One is expecting life to be Extended.**

**I Kings 17:9** **Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which *belongeth* to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.**

**\*\*The brook which the Lord told Elijah to drink from had dried up, so the Lord told him to go to this widow woman’s house and he could eat and live. Those two sticks represented life to Elijah.**

**\*\*** **Application: If the spiritual brook has dried up in your life, you better get to the place God wants you so that you can be alive!**

           **2. One is expecting life to be Ending**

**I Kings 17:12** **. . . I *am* gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.**

**Illustration:  In a heaven-sent powerful meeting I have seen an example of two groups of people many times.  Both groups of people will be presented with the same service, the same songs, the same sermon, and the same Holy Spirit.  However, one group walks out the door with a glow on their face as if their life has just been extended, and the other group walks out the door with a gloom on their face as if their life has just ended!  The only difference is that the first group of people pick up a stick or two of wood from the service and got fuel, got fire, and got fed, and the second group never even picked up one stick and went away cold, indifferent, hungry, and dying!**

**The group you identify with all depends on your approach to the service and your attitude toward the service!**

**\*\*Come to church with the right approach and the right attitude, and you can leave with some sticks to cook with friend!**

**III. GOD USED TWO CROSS STICKS**

**John 19:17**  **And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called *the place* of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:**

        **A.  God Used Two Cross Sticks to Cross Out Sin!**

              **1. All the World’s Sin**

              **2. All the Wicked Sin**

              **3. All the Worse Sins**

        **B. God Used Two Cross Sticks to Cross Out Suffering!**

**1. Those who have Taken this Cross won’t suffer forever.**

**2. Those who have Trusted this Christ won’t suffer forever.**

        **C. God Used Two Cross Sticks to Cross Out Struggles!**

      **1. No Existing Problems to Struggle with in Heaven.**

      **2. No External Principalities to Struggle with in Heaven.**

      **3. No Evil Powers to Struggle with in Heaven.**

      **4. No Eerie People to Struggle with in Heaven.**

**\*\*Had it not been for the Two Cross Sticks, there would not be Two Companion Sticks, Two Carrying Sticks, Two Caretaker Sticks or Two Cooking Sticks!**

**CLOSE**

**Illustration:  In Acts 28:2-5 Paul came to an island, and there was a fire that was built there.  He then bundled up some sticks and placed them on the fire.  Suddenly a snake came out, and Paul just shook it off into the fire.**

 **Application:**

          **1. Somebody built a fire around here before you came along.**

          **2. However, we better get a hold of some sticks that will keep this fire going for our kids and our grandkids so they can stay warm and stay fed.**

           **3. You can be sure that when the fire gets built up and burning good, there will be a snake to come out somewhere in your life and possibly in the church.  But all you have to do is stay close to the fire and shake that snake off into the fire.**

**\*\*Are there some sticks you need to bring to this altar and throw on the fire today?**

**\*\*Are there a couple of sticks you need to come and ask God for so you can go home and cook with them so you can eat and stay warm?**