

Despising the Day of Small Things

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INTRODUCTION:

- i. **Zech. 4:9-10** – Without going into great detail about the prophesy of Zechariah, within one of these messages, a challenging question is posed to Israel as God envisions Zerubbabel completing the rebuilding of the temple
 - Despise - to despise, hold in contempt, hold as insignificant (Strong's)
 - Small - young, small, insignificant, unimportant (Strong's)
 - Those who opposed rebuilding the temple saw it as a SMALL thing – **cf. Hag. 2:3**
 - However, God saw the completion of the temple by Zerubbabel as a big thing!
- ii. Yet, the simple question asked still has great application for us today: Do we despise the day of small things?
- iii. I would like to make today a day of SMALL things! Both of today's lessons will address some principles regarding small things that we must come to realize if we are truly going to be Christ's disciples!

DISCUSSION:

I. SMALL THINGS ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT, IF NOT MORE IMPORTANT, THAN MANY SEEMINGLY "BIG" THINGS

- A. Why did Jesus draw attention to the widow's two mites? – **Luke 21:1-4**
- B. SMALL things *typically* glorify God, whereas big things tend to glorify men! – **1 Cor. 1:27-29**
- C. Have you ever wondered why God has not given us a huge monumental work, trial or task to do in order to be saved? Instead He gives a simple process of grace through faith. – **Eph. 2:4-10**

II. SMALL THINGS IN MAN'S SIGHT ARE BIG THINGS IN GOD'S SIGHT

- A. We often make a big thing out of comparatively small things, while neglecting to do the SMALL things that are tantamount to genuinely BIG things! Are we majoring in minors? – **cf. Matt. 23:23-24**
- B. Will we ace a few "big" things only to find we missed the mark on the SMALL things? – **Matt. 7:21-23**
- C. Will we learn that we have overlooked the SMALL things when it is our turn to stand judgment? – **Matt. 25:31-46**

III. SMALL THINGS DONE BY FAITH WITH LOVE ARE ALWAYS BIG THINGS

- A. Do you realize the "cup of water in His name" principle in your life (i.e., miracles vs. cup of water)? – **Mark 9:39-41**
- B. Big acts absent of love are not SMALL things, but "NoThings" whereas the seemingly SMALLEST of loving acts are HUGE things! – **cf. 1 Cor. 13:1-3**
- C. SMALL things are not always about the size of the gift or kindness, but the thought and love that went into it! Do you tend to cherish those thoughtful little gifts much more than the seemingly "big" gifts in your life?

IV. SMALL THINGS TYPICALLY IMPACT LIFE AND DEATH CHOICES

- A. The choice between life and death often hinges on one SMALL action...
 1. The Good Samaritan – **Luke 10:29-37**
 2. Moses at the Waters of Meribah – **Num. 20:2-13**
 3. Uzzah with the Ark – **2 Sam. 6:3-8**
 4. The rich young ruler – **Matt. 19:16-26**
- B. Those who are faithful in what is least will be faithful also in much! – **Luke 16:10-12; Matt. 25:21**
- C. Are we faithful in the seemingly SMALL things God has given us to do?

V. SMALL THINGS FLOURISH WITH CONSISTENCY AND QUANTITY

- A. Consistent every day acts are much greater than occasional or once-in-a-lifetime acts – **cf. Matt. 20:26-28**
 - 1. Are you a “one-hit wonder” or a “flash in the pan” when it comes to your faith? – **Matt. 5:16**
 - 2. The very idea of faithfulness implies constancy! – **cf. Rev. 2:10**
 - 3. Let’s merge the phrases “Death by a thousand pinpricks” and “Killing them with kindness”...
 - a. Can we not slay someone’s old man of sin one act of kindness act at a time?
 - b. Some souls will be won by one thousand acts of kindness that have been motivated by the greatest singular act of love this world has ever known! – **John 3:16; 1 John 3:16-17; 4:19**
- B. Sometimes it’s the simplest acts of kindness and love that make the biggest impact!
 - 1. SMALL acts of kindness, love and compassion can naturally and organically soften hearts, create opportunities and build relationships in ways that are just cannot be achieved with seemingly big things!
 - 2. Do we truly realize what it means to love both in word and deed? – **1 John 3:18**

VI. SMALL THINGS OFTEN HAPPEN BEHIND-THE-SCENES AND RARELY ON A GRAND STAGE

- A. Are you content to let your acts of love, faith and kindness go unnoticed by men? – **Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18**
- B. OR are we like the Pharisees who do what they do to be seen and exalted by men? – **Matt. 23:1-12**
- C. Realizing that our reward comes from the Lord and awaits in heaven will help us to see and take advantage of the many SMALL opportunities God gives us to let our light shine before men! – **Matt. 6:19-21; 1 Tim. 6:17-19**

CONCLUSION:

- i. In all of these SMALL things we have been talking about, one fact that we have failed to acknowledge is that Jesus, when He walked this earth, was faithful in the SMALL things!
 - He fed the multitudes
 - He healed the sick of their diseases
 - He raised the dead
 - He did many wondrous works
- ii. You might be thinking, “Those don’t sound like SMALL things to me!” For us, they would be phenomenal things, but for Jesus, God the Son, these are but SMALL THINGS! He did them faithfully, consistently, abundantly and lovingly!
- iii. So, let us not despise the day of SMALL THINGS – **Zech. 4:10**