

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK SERIES

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Little Is Much If God Is In It

Mt.14:13-21

1. The multitude was gathered. They had need, they were hungry. Jesus commanded, "give them to eat." Andrew found a lad with five loaves and two little fishes, these were brought to the Lord. The loaves were small flat cakes associated with the diet and eating habits of the poor. The small fishes were used as a relish with the bread. Not a very large store was this, for feeding five thousand men besides women and children. However, the little that men have is enough, if it is dedicated to the Lord. Christ gave thanks--an example for us. Everyone ate and were filled. Twelve baskets of fragments were gathered--The super-abundance of Jesus power is noted here. They had twelve times as much left over as they started with. The Lesson: Little is much, when God is in it.

The Case of Gideon. Judges 7

God proposed to save Israel from the Midianites by the hand of Gideon. The Lord declared that "the people are too many." Go and declare: (1) fearful and afraid, let him return. Twenty-two thousand left. Ten thousand remained. The Lord said "still too many." Bring them to water: those who lap water with his tongue like a dog "put by himself", likewise those who get down on their knees to drink "put them by themselves." Only three hundred lapped water like a dog. God said "By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place." God only needed a few to accomplish his purpose. Little is much, when God is in it.

Application: Often today, we think that if there are only a few, we will be unable to make a difference or unable to accomplish much for the Lord. We feel that little things really don't matter, so we fail to serve or give of ourselves as we should. There is also a danger if thinking that because something is small and, we feel, insignificant it won't matter even if it is wrong. Such thinking is dangerous and should be avoided by us all.

I. There Are No Little Thoughts.

1. Prov. 23:7 "As a man thinketh in his heart..." If this is true, then there are truly no little thoughts, all thoughts are important.
2. When Naaman was told by a messenger from Elisha to go and dip in Jordan seven times, to be cleansed of his leprosy, he refused, saying "behold I thought, He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper." He went away in a rage. His thoughts almost doomed him.

3. Our thoughts can do the same. James Allen wrote: "As you think, you travel: And as you love, you attract. You are today where your thoughts have brought you: You will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you. You cannot escape the results of your thoughts, but you can learn and endure, can accept and be glad. You will realize the vision--not the idle wish--of your heart. Be it base or beautiful, or a mixture of both, for you will always gravitate towards that which you, secretly, most love. In your hands will be placed the exact results of your thoughts. You will receive that which you earn: no more, no less. Whatever your present environment may be, you will fall, remain, or rise with your thoughts, your wisdom, your ideal. You will become as small as your controlling desire: as great as your dominant aspiration."

4. It is so important that we think wisely, clearly, and correctly about spiritual matters.

5. Phil. 4:8 Finally brethren whatsoever things--true, honest, pure, lovely, good report,--"think on these things."

6. There are no little thoughts--evil, ungodly, sinful thoughts will drag you down and destroy you.

II. There Are No Little Kindnesses.

1. There are many little things, if missing from our lives that will make life empty, seemingly far out of proportion to their size: among them simple kindnesses, hospitality, brotherly kindness, a smile, warm and firm handshake etc.

2. 1Pet. 4:8-9 "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging."

3. People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care.

4. Older preacher to younger: Remember, every person to whom you speak is carrying some kind of burden, some kind of load.

5. Look what a small thing the widow did in Mark 12:42-44 "And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."

7. 2Cor. 1:3-4 "Blessed Be God even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, The Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort who comforteth us in all our tribulation that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble by the comfort we ourselves are comforted of God."

III. There Are No Little Talents.

1. There is a place for you in the Kingdom, a job you can do.

2. Too many emphasize the what they cannot do, rather than what they can.

3. 1Samuel 20:18 "Thou shalt be missed,---seat empty. All can attend, lend support.

4. Mary broke the alabaster box and anointed Jesus. "She hath done what she could.." Mk. 14:8. Suppose she had held back because she felt her action wasn't needed or was unimportant?
5. God asks of no man more than this. But of all, he demands what we can do.

IV. There Are No Little Decisions.

1. Be careful when you make your decisions, for too often the decisions you consider little, will undo those you consider big.
2. Illus: Young man choosing life's vocation. Decides to be a doctor. A big decision. Yet in college he fails to study, fails test after test and is soon out of the program. Little decisions destroyed him
3. Joshua 24:15 "Choose you this day whom you will serve..." So we make the big decision to serve God, but we are confronted with little decisions--work for extra pay or come to church, stay at home and rest, or visit the sick and lost etc.
4. The far reaching consequences of our decisions are seen in the case of Lot and his selection of a home in Sodom. At the time it may have seemed the right thing to do, but it proved to be a great mistake, one from which he never recovered.
5. Any decision, regardless of how little it may seem, if God is included in it, will work out for our ultimate good.

V. There Are No Little Sins.

1. There is perhaps, no area, where little seems less important and significant than the area of sin in our lives. We have been deceived by the idea that little things don't matter.
2. A little white lie, a brief night out on the town, a small lapse in moral diligence, a limited excursion into the forbidden.
3. There are minute things that seem unimportant such as: Moses smiting the rock--Numbers 20:10-12. Israel offering incense on the alters of brick Isa. 65:3 "A people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face; that sacrificeth in gardens, and burneth incense upon alters of brick." Alters were to be made of earth or unhewn stone Ex. 20:24-25.

The tongue--a little member--is set on fire of hell--how great a matter a little fire kindleth.

Today: worshiping God in a way not appointed, participating in sinful practices that are accepted by the world etc.

4. Eccl. 10:1 "Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour, so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor."
5. 2Kings 10:18 "Ahab served Baal--a little."

Conclusion: Little things do matter. They make a difference for good or ill. If God is involved, there are no little things. Little is always much, when God is in it.