

## The Day Of Small Things

Discipleship and influence is in the small things ...

Zechariah 4:6-10

### The Rebuilding Of The Temple

- ▀ Zerubbabel led the first wave back to Jerusalem.
- ▀ Worship started immediately. (**Ezra 3:3-4**)
- ▀ Then the work started on the foundation of the temple. (**Ezra 3:9-11**)
- ▀ But it wasn't what it used to be. (**Ezra 3:12-13**)
- ▀ Resistance came, discouragement followed, and the work stopped. (**Ezra 4:1-5, 17-23**)

### The Rebuilding Of The Temple

- ▀ Haggai came 14 years later to stir the people up. (**Haggai 2:1-9**)
- ▀ Work resumed but the people quickly became discouraged again.
- ▀ Zechariah also prophesied during this time frame. (**Zechariah 4:6-10**)
- ▀ So little done, **so much yet to accomplish** yet God promised **"his hands will finish it"** (verse 8) and **God then asked, "For who has despised the day of small things?"**

### Big Things – Small Steps

- ▀ The temptation to ignore the small details, steps, and actions.
- ▀ It's how the church began. (**Matthew 13:31-33**)
- ▀ God chooses to work through things and people the world overlooks and disdains. (**1 Corinthians 1:27-29; Hebrews 11:32-40; Acts 4:13; Acts 17:6; Isaiah 37:31-32**)
- ▀ It's the **repetition** of **seemingly insignificant acts** that produce extraordinary results. (**Daniel 6:3, 10**)
- ▀ **How good (and bad) habits are established!** (**Acts 17:3; Hebrews 10:25**)

### The "One-Coin" Argument

- ▀ Giving someone one gold coin will not make them rich ... but if done every day, eventually, the one coin would make them rich.
- ▀ The point: **one instance of any action is almost meaningless**. Yet the sum of those actions is extremely meaningful.
- ▀ Applied physically: skipping one day at the gym, eating one piece of cake, missing one day of school.
- ▀ **Applied spiritually**: reading God's word, **praying, assembling to worship, visiting** the sick, etc., may seem insignificant but collectively means everything!

**How Can We Ensure We Don't Despise The Day Of Small Things?**

## Value The Small Moments of Opportunity Every Day Provides

- Consider Jesus and the Samaritan woman. (John 4:7-14, 24-25, 28-29, 39-42)
- What exactly does a "door" of opportunity "for the word" look like? (Colossians 4:3-6)

## Don't Despise The Small Things of Prayer

- It can accomplish much.
- James 5:16, "... effective prayers ... accomplish much."
- Luke 11:5-13, "... he will ... give him as much as he needs."

## Don't Despise The Small Acts Of Service

- Every part is needed, every act of service critical.
- Ephesians 4:11-12, "... for the equipping of the saints for the work of service to the building up of the body of Christ."
- 1 Corinthians 12:22-23, "... on these we bestow more abundant honor ..."
- Acts of service anyone can do ... – Matthew 10:40-42; John 13:5ff
- That matter to others and ourselves, Matthew 25:31ff

## Don't Despise The Small Things Like Reading God's Word

- It is the power of God to us. Romans 1:16
- It is to be a daily part of our life. Psalms 1:2-3
- It is to be hungered for daily. 1 Peter 2:1-2
- It is to be paid attention to. 1 Timothy 4:13
- It may not seem like a big thing but we need to read and meditate every day. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

## Don't Despise The Small Things Of Daily Sacrifice and Denial

- The importance of one denial. Luke 9:23-24; Titus 2:12
- The importance of one sacrifice. Romans 12:1-2
- One act of putting sin to death. Colossians 3:5-8; Ephesians 4:17ff
- One right thought exercised and one wicked thought restrained. Philippians 4:8; 1 Peter 1:13; 2 Corinthians 10:5

## Don't Despise The Small Things Of Fulfilling Our Roles Within The Family

- The importance of fulfilling our responsibility every day as husbands, wives, and children. Ephesians 6:1ff.
- To teach and train our children.
- To love our spouse and children.
- To be an example to them.

### Don't Despise The Small Things Of Making The Most Of Our Time and Blessings

- To talk to others about the hope within us. **1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 2:2; John 4**
- To take a step forward in our spiritual growth. **2 Peter 1:5-7**
- To do some **"good"** in this world. **Ephesians 5:15-17**
- Value each day. **Psalms 90:12**
- To be thankful for everything. **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

### Don't Despise The Small Things Of Our Opportunities To Make Things Right With God

- Today is the day ... **Hebrews 4:6-7**
- To complete your faith and act upon what God has told you to do. **James 2:22**
- To confess our faith in Jesus Christ as the Son Of God. **Acts 8:37**
- To repent of your sins. **Acts 2:38**
- To be baptized into the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins. **Acts 2:38**