

“WHO HAS DESPISED THE DAY OF SMALL THINGS?”

Zechariah 4:8-10

Introduction:

- 1. Zechariah encouraged the Jews to finish rebuilding the temple.**
- 2. Many were disappointed it did not measure up to the previous temple.**
- 3. The prophet asked, “Who has despised the day of small things?”**
- 4. Many today despise small things.**

Discussion:

I. WE CAN LEARN GREAT LESSONS FROM SMALL THINGS.

- A. Agur wrote: “There are four things which are little on the earth, but they are exceedingly wise” (Prov. 30:24).**
- 1. “Ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their food in the summer” (Prov. 30:25).**
 - a. Ants are hard workers.**
 - b. They prepare for the future.**
 - 2. “The rock badgers are a feeble folk, yet they make their homes in the crags” (Prov. 30:26).**
 - a. Our only place of safety is in Christ (Eph. 1:3).**
 - b. Keeping His words keeps us safe (Matt. 7:24-27).**
 - 3. “The locusts have no king, yet they all advance in ranks” (Prov. 30:27).**
 - a. The church should be efficiently organized.**
 - b. Members should cooperate with one another.**
 - 4. “The spider skillfully grasps with its hands, and it is in kings’ palaces” (Prov. 30:28).**
 - a. Joseph went from prison to the palace (Gen. 39 ff.).**
 - b. David went from shepherd to king (1 Sam. 16 ff.).**
- B. If we excell in only one thing, we will succeed: “If a man can write a better book, preach a better sermon, or make a better mousetrap than his neighbor, though he build his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his doors.”**

II. SMALL THINGS OFTEN HAVE GREAT CONSEQUENCES.

- A. Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary-general of the United Nations, died in a plane crash near Ndola, Zambia in 1961.**

1. His destination was Ndolo, Congo.
 2. The cause was pilot error; Ndola is 1,000 feet higher than Ndolo.
- B. The Bible tells of many who despised small things and suffered.**
1. The Devil left out “not” (Gen. 2:16,17; 3:4).
 2. Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire (Lev. 10:1-3).
 3. 42,000 Ephraimites left out the letter “h” (Judg. 12:5-7).
 4. Uzzah touched the ark (2 Sam. 6:1-7; Num. 4:15).
- C. Alexander Campbell said: “When any matter, however minute, involves principle or character, it ceases to be an unimportant matter.”**
1. Some think adding instrumental music to the worship is a little thing (Col. 3:16, 17).
 2. Some think the name is not important (Acts 4:12).
 3. Some think the purpose of baptism does not matter (Acts 2:38; 19:1-6).

III. SMALL THINGS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN SPIRITUAL MATTERS.

- A. A simple act of charity has its reward: “Whoever gives one of these little ones a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward” (Matt. 10:42).**
- B. Andrew brought Peter to Jesus (John 1:40-42).**
1. Peter brought thousands to Christ.
 2. If Andrew had done nothing else but this, he would have accomplished much for the Lord.
- C. The kingdom began as a mustard seed (Matt. 13:31, 32).**
- D. Twelve men took the Gospel to the world (Acts 1:8; Col. 1:23).**

Conclusion:

1. God’s simple plan of salvation is small in the eyes of the world, but we cannot be saved without obedience to it (Rom. 6:17).
2. Seemingly small decisions determine where we will be in eternity.
3. Let us not “despise the day of small things!”