



July 14, 2023

### **Who has despised the Day of Small Things?**

Warm hellos once again friends, brethren, fellow laborers, spiritual family, and scattered children of God from here on the Gulf Coast. My wife and I pray and hope this finds you doing well, and that again your week has been blessed.

We've just returned from a very successful pastoral and family visit to several states to the north. Two and one half weeks flew by and now I'm playing catch up now that I'm back in my office.

There is an interesting scripture found in Zechariah 4:9-10 *"The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto you. 10 For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth."*

If you are like me, some days seem to be filled up with a lot of little details, such that before we know it the day is gone and we're looking forward to the next day. But, without attention to those details, well, we learn some valuable lessons. They are actually important aren't they?

"Little Things Mean A Lot" was a very popular hit song that made it to the number one spot on the charts in the USA and UK in 1954. Over the years, other recording artists have released their versions of this song. While it has nice lyrics and a lovely tune, the title says it all. In life, we often look for the big events or the very significant occurrences that make a big splash or great impact. Many times over the years I have heard brethren say "I need a Red Sea Moment!" And yet, it is the little things that we do daily that cement and enhance relationships both physically and spiritually. The little kindnesses, the thoughtful acts, the courtesies

and consideration shown to others without expecting anything in return reveal a person's true character and their love of others.

It is the same in spiritual matters as well. In the Bible we find detailed instructions for living, all of which are very important. It is very plain that our Heavenly Father expects us to be faithful in little things as well as the "weightier matters" found in Scripture. Being careful to do the little things demonstrates to Him that we really do "fear" Him, (meaning to have deep respect and awe for His Way of life). The Bible gives us numerous examples of the importance of obeying God in the little things.

One example that comes to mind is the story of Uzza in I Chronicles 13:7-10. As the Israelites were transporting the Ark of the Covenant, (a very important symbol of the nation's relationship with God), the oxen pulling the cart carrying the Ark stumbled. Instinctively, Uzza reached out to steady the Ark to prevent it from shifting or falling. He was instantly struck dead by God. While this may seem cruel to us today, God had given detailed, specific instructions on how to transport this important symbol. Uzza knew this, yet did not follow the instructions, which cost him his life. Thankfully, Uzza will have the opportunity to repent and live out his life obeying God in the resurrection.

There are many other less traumatic examples of the importance of little or small things in Scripture. A very illustrative one is found in Mark 12:42-44 (NKJV), *"Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadran. So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."* Notice Jesus did not tell his disciples to take the two mites, (a very small amount of money), and give it back to the poor widow. That would have been an insult to her, when, in fact, her little offering was the basis for a great lesson for all of us.

In our lives, there are little or small things that need to be monitored and controlled. James, the half-brother of Jesus, wrote in his book of the New Testament, *"Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See*

*how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity.... But no man can tame the tongue."* James 3:2-8 (NKJV). With God's help one can tame the tongue, but it requires constant vigilance to accomplish.

Is it important for us to be diligent in following God's instructions in our daily lives? The example of Uzza shows that it can be a very serious matter. Also, the wonderful example of the widow who was devoted to God and His Work with her meager offering shows that little things are noticed by God. In fact Jesus made a promise based on this premise when He said in Luke 19:17 (NKJV), "...'*Well done, good servant: because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.*'"

As you live your life each day dear friends and brethren, remember physically and spiritually, little or small things mean a lot to God! Might you and I consider such and make the course corrections needed as we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord...

Arms up friends! Our sincere prayers and thoughts are with you daily. Thanks in advance for your heartfelt prayers for us.



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