



From Where I Sit . . .

“For Who Hath Despised the Day Of Small Things?” (Zechariah 4:10)

About 536 years before Christ was born, Judah was nearing the end of a 70 year period of exile as punishment for repeatedly turning away from God. Cyrus the king of Persia decreed that they could return to Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel (**Ezra 1**). The temple in Jerusalem had been laid to total ruins by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B. C. and the whole city was in shambles. Now God’s people were being sent back home to rebuild the holy city.

When the foundation of the temple had been laid, the people who had returned from Babylon wept with a loud voice because of the insignificance of the temple then being constructed when compared with the temple of Solomon (**Ezra 3:12**). Even after Zerubbabel had begun the work of completing the building approximately 16 years later, it appeared in their eyes as nothing (**Haggai 2:3**). but the Lord continues to speak through his angel to Zechariah: **Zechariah 4:10** – *“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.”*

An important lesson we might learn from the text is that nothing is insignificant if it is the work of the Lord. We must not overlook or devalue small things. There is a danger of overlooking the importance of a thing simply because it is small. One Tenth of one per cent is not very much at all, but if we overlook the importance of that one tenth, look at some consequences:

1. Two million documents would be lost by the IRS this year;
2. 22,000 checks will be deducted from the wrong bank accounts in the next 60 minutes.
3. 20,000 incorrect prescriptions will be written this year;
4. 114,500 mismatched pairs of shoes will be shipped this year;
5. 315 entries in Webster’s Dictionary will turn out to be misspelled.

Jesus noticed the little things. In **Lk. 19:17**, He stressed the importance of faithfulness even in the little things with these words: *“And he said unto him, well, thou good servant; because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over 10 cities.”* Also in **Mat. 25:21**, *“His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”*

Too many people feel like their congregation is too small to take on any work for the Lord; too small to make a difference. However, even in little churches, and in little deeds souls are saved; the Lord is glorified. Even Bethlehem gave the world Jesus! We need to appreciate the little things, the little building blocks that go together to make the Christian life, and not be guilty of minimizing their importance, or of discouraging others who might have “little” in our estimation. I rejoice every time a “one talent” person steps forward and uses that talent for the glory of God. *“For who hath despised the day of small things?”*

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