

Watch Out For Little Things

There is a story about the late US Ambassador to Italy, Clare Booth Luce.

She had been in Italy only a few weeks when she became ill. Her hair began to fall out and her nails began to loosen. She had all the symptoms of arsenic poisoning.

How had this come about?

The doctors eventually decided to examine the environment in her apartment.

They discovered a fine, almost invisible dust coming from the ornately carved ceilings.

The dust was falling into her food and drink, into her cosmetic creams and into her clothes.

These tiny dust particles, which came from the paint used to decorate her apartment having a high lead and arsenic content.

This was slowly poisoning her.

This story highlights how important it is not to neglect little things.

Too often we are impressed only with size.

If something is small or quiet we may think it is unimportant.

If it is big and noisy, we assume it is important.

God does not measure things the way we do.

Large things do **not** always impress or excite God.

In fact, some of the little things in the Handbook For Life, the Christian Bible, teach big lessons.

Matthew 13:31-32 [NIV] *“He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a **mustard seed**, which a man took and planted in his field. **Though it is the smallest of all your seeds**, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches.”*

Teaches us how the Kingdom of God starts small.

Small things and small beginnings are not to be despised.

Physically we all started when two things too small to see without magnification joined together and began to multiply.

Spiritually we start in the same way when upon repentance and baptism God places in us the Holy Spirit who is impossible to see yet if we let Him begins to create a new “*born again*” being within us.

God then places us in church whom He calls His “*little flock*” [Luke 12:32].

God used Moses’ **rod** to defeat the army of Egypt [Exodus 14:5-28].

David used a **sling and one small stone** to conquer the giant Goliath [1 Samuel 17:40-51].

Gideon, with **only 300 soldiers**, defeated the huge Midianite army [**Judges 7:1-8**].

Jesus fed thousands of people with a **few loaves and fishes** [**Matthew 15:32-38**].

Moses' rod and David's sling were small, but in God's hands they did mighty things.

Jesus Christ was a sharp-eyed observer of the world around Him, quick to notice small things, incidents and details.

A small child [**Matthew 18:1-6**].

The widow's two mites [**Mark 12:41-44**].

How many in God's work today have also given what some might consider a small offering, but because of their faithfulness they have made it possible for others to be reached with the gospel message?

God always notices our efforts. No sincere act of worship or service is overlooked by God. Humans may despise small things but God is continually aware of their importance.

It is in the small things that a person's faithfulness is really seen.

No deed of kindness goes unnoticed by God. In whatever degree, small kindnesses do help others, they also help us to develop true character.

God will use our small acts of Christian love to accomplish great things.

Some big "little things"

Starting a conversation with a lovely person.

Sending a thank-you card or note of encouragement.

A few kind words to someone who is going through difficult times.

Luke 16:10 [NIV] *"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."*

If we are faithful in small things God knows He can trust us with big things to accomplish with Him in His work of reconciliation.

No work is too small if it is God's work.

No gift is too small if it is given in faith and love.

No act of service is too small if it is done to honour God.

God is a God who appreciates all small things done out of gratitude for what He has done for us through His Son Jesus Christ.