

## Underestimating The Significance Of A Little

I. Most of us miss the most significant moments in our lives while they are happening, because we weren't aware that God was wanting to do something significant.

A. **Matthew 14:15-19** - *“And when it was evening, the disciples came to Him, saying, The place is desolate, and the time is already past; so send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves. But Jesus said to them, They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat! And they said to Him, We have here only five loaves and two fish. And He said, “Bring them here to Me.””*

1. When you see the need as great and the resources as puny you will send the crowd away to fend for themselves.
2. **But if you have an ear to hear, Jesus will challenge you to use what you have to meet their need.**
3. It doesn't matter how little you have, if you bring it to Jesus it will become a lot.

B. **John 6:9** - *“but what are these for so many people?”*

- *But that's a drop in the bucket for a crowd like this.”* Message
- *but how far will they go among so many?”* NIV
- In other words the need is great but the resources are puny
- **What needs to be accomplished requires more than what I have or can do.**
- Most Christians suffer from the paralysis of insufficient resources.
- **We are under the false impression that we need to have more and be more before we can do more.**

1. This phrase in John 6:9 indicates a mistake that not only did these disciples make, but a mistake that is common to most Christians.

a. **The mistake is underestimating the significance of a little, when it is in the Hands of a Big God.**

b. It's my belief that the majority of Christians miss out on God's power and provision, because He puts both in seemingly insignificant and small packages.

- **Moses' Rod - David's stone - The Lord's dirt mixed with spit healing balm**
- One Rod was enough, one stone was enough, one mud ball was enough.

c. **This tendency to underestimate what we have and can do is clearly seen in this verse where a sack lunch of 5 loaves and 2 fishes, had the potential of becoming a feast for over 5,000 people.**

- One Lunch is enough, One person is enough, One family is enough, One Church
- **God doesn't need money, He just needs a man.**

2. Even nature teaches us that the most powerful and valuable things in this life are found in the smallest of quantities.
  - a. **There is enough power in a single atom to destroy a whole city; the biggest trees come from the smallest seeds; and a single seed can produce a whole crop.**
  - b. In the spiritual realm, faith the size of a mustard seed has enough power to move a mountain, Matthew 17:20.
    - **The littleness is not in how much faith you have**
    - God only needs a little (mustard seed)
    - **The littleness is in the perception of what you have**
    - It's a drop in the bucket
  - c. **And God Himself states in Hebrews 11:4, “that He made everything that is seen from stuff that can't be seen.”**
  - d. In God's Hands even nothing, has the potential to become something.
  - e. **Story of George Washington Carver**
    - Imagine the resources that existed within the confines of an insignificant peanut
    - **Then imagine the resources that exist within the confines of your small, insignificant life. Psalm 139:17**
3. This concept can be seen with the very years that God gives you to live. Psalm 61:6, out of the Living Bible states.
4. **You will also find that great works of service come packaged in small, seemingly insignificant opportunities. In 1983 I relocated to Orlando.**
5. I almost missed this great work of service, because it came packaged in 16 seemingly insignificant minutes.

**C. The point I am trying to make is that God doesn't need much to do a lot.**

1. In fact, I believe He enjoys taking little things and using them to do big things; taking the least and using it to produce the most; or taking the insignificant to accomplish the significant.
  - a. **In Genesis 17:5, God took one man and made him a father of many nations.**
  - b. In Judges 6:15, God took the least member of the least family in all the land, Gideon, and made him Judge over the entire nation.
  - c. **The book of Isaiah, comments on this ability of God, “The smallest one will become a clan, and the least one a mighty nation. For I, the LORD, will hasten it in its time,” Isaiah 60:22.**

2. In New Testament times, Jesus took 12 ordinary men and transformed them into mighty apostles.
  - a. **In John 4, He took a promiscuous Samaritan woman, and used her to bring about a city wide revival.**
  - b. In Luke 19, He took a stingy, corrupt, and self-serving individual, Zacchaeus, and transformed him into a source of blessing for many.
  - c. **And, in the book of Acts, He took a persistent persecutor of the Faith, Saul, and transformed him into Paul, a powerful preacher of the Gospel.**
3. The reason why so many of miss out on what God is wanting to do, is that we are looking for the potential released instead of the potential contained.

***“The smallest one will become a clan” Isaiah 60:22***

- a. We are looking for the post “burning bush” Moses instead of the Pre
  - b. We are looking for the “mighty man of valor” instead of the “cowardly thresher.”**
  - c. We are looking for the “giant killer” instead of the “shepherd.”
  - d. We are looking for the “city wide evangelist” instead of the “promiscuous woman.”**
  - e. We are looking for the “rich, generous blesser of others” instead of the “stingy, corrupt, and self-serving rich man.”
  - f. We are looking for the “powerful preacher” instead of the “persistent persecutor.”**
4. God has always used the ordinary to accomplish the extraordinary.
    - **He took an ordinary rod, stretched it and parted a sea.**
    - He took a common pebble, flung it and slew a giant.
    - **He took a peasant boys lunch, blessed it and fed a multitude.**
    - He took some dirt mixed with spit and healed a blind man.
  
    - **In God’s Hands a stick can become a scepter.**
    - A stone can become a missile.
    - **A sack lunch can become a feast.**
    - A mixture of dirt with saliva can become a balm for the blind.
  5. **If there is that kind of power and potential in sticks, stones, and dirt, then what kind of power and potential is in you and your circumstances.**