**The Small Things**

Don’t overlook the little things

On September 23, 1857 a business man named **Jeremy Lanphier** published an ad for a prayer meeting. He had hoped for more. But only six people showed up. He knew that scripture said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there also"? So on this day at lunchtime, he did not complain about the small number who turned. Instead, he knelt with the others in the rented hall in Fulton Street, New York.

The United States was in spiritual, political, and economic decline at this time. There was financial panic and Banks were failing, factories closed, unemployment was increasing.

The third week of Jeremy's program, his prayer meeting had forty participants. Within six months 10,000 people were gathering daily for prayer in New York City alone.

Soon other cities started praying with thousands meeting in churches across the country. Churches were filled for months at a time and in many places, tents had to be set up for prayer.

So just a small prayer meeting set up by one man led to the Third Great Awakening producing the greatest harvest of new followers in American history with estimates of over 1 million people coming to Christ. This revival spread to around the world to Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, Europe, South Africa, India, Australia, and the Pacific islands.

* **God often uses the smallest things to achieve great things**

I wonder how many times in life we overlook doing something simple and small that could have significant impact. We may be presented with small opportunities here and there but they probable seem beneath us or too trivial to be worth our time. I wonder how many small opportunities I myself have passed over where God was shaking his head saying this was your big opportunity to shine for me.

Luke 10:16 - 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.

* **God doesn’t call the qualified he qualifies the Called**

The bible is full of stories where God uses something small to achieve something great. For example

* God used one man to build an Ark to save the human race from a flood (Genesis 5 – 10)
* God used a small shepherd boy and a sling shot to defeat a Giant and that small Shepherd boy then became King and the great great great grandfather of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Samuel 17)
* God used 4 fishermen, a tax collector and a man who was persecuting Christians (Paul), to spread Christianity to the world.
* And best of all God used one man, his son, who was born in a stable, to save the entire world if we just put our faith in him.

When God is on your side, it is not what you have or how much you have that determines the outcome. You only have to trust and follow God one step at a time.

We should accept whatever Christ calls us to do. It may look small to you but it may achieve great things for God.

We find In Mathew that the smallest of faith can produce the greatest of miracles

[Matthew 17:20](http://biblehub.com/matthew/17-20.htm) Jesus replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you

God tells us why he does this in

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

I think sometimes we forget that Jesus did not come for the popular, the rich, the powerful or the famous he came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10)

**Dwight L. Moody** was a young man when he attending one of the **Jeremy Lanphier**’s prayer meetings and felt a call to follow Christ. He was a poorly educated shoe salesman who felt God's call to preach the gospel. He later went to a meeting where Charles Spurgeon was speaking. In that meeting Moody felt that if God could use Mr. Spurgeon (Spurgeon preached to around 10,000,000 people), why should He not use me. God did extraordinary things through this ordinary man. Moody became one of the greatest evangelists of modern times.

**Bill Graham** was a small farm boy that grew up to preach Christianity to nearly 215 million people in live audiences (Millions more over TV and radio) in more than 185 countries. It is estimated that 3.2 million people responding to his invitation to "accept Jesus Christ. If God can take this 16-year-old farm boy from the North Carolina dairy, He can do something with you.

**John Bunyan** was born in England in 1628, “of a low, inconsiderable generation” (his own words). Some called him “an illiterate tinker.” But while in jail for his Christian faith, Bunyan wrote The Pilgrim’s Progress. Some estimate that only the Bible has reached more people for Jesus than Bunyan’s The Pilgrim’s Progress. He is another example of a person of faith in the Lord emerging from humble circumstances to have a worldwide influence for God.

**George Whitefield** was born in England in 1714, the youngest of seven children. His father died in George’s infancy, and his mother raised them in poverty. But George Whitefield went on to preach 18,000 sermons! Some estimate 100,000 listeners heard him preach a sermon in Scotland, with 10,000 saved through that one message. Again, from small beginnings to great things for God!

There was a man named **George Müller** who lived in the 1800s. He cared for over 10,000 orphans during his lifetime. He built 5 homes *for the* Orphans to live in and established 117 schools which offered Christian education to more than 120,000 kids.

Through all this, Müller never requested any financial support but he never went into debt. He often received unsolicited donations just hours before they were needed to feed the children. Müller was able to achieve all of this through his constant prayer and trusting that God would provide.

On one occasion, all the children were sitting at the table and thanks were given to God for the breakfast but there was nothing to eat in the house. As they finished praying, A baker knocked on the door with sufficient bread to feed everyone, and the milk man gave them plenty of fresh milk because his cart had broken down outside.

Müller never sought donations from anyone and relied only on God Almighty to provide for all of their needs.

You cannot hide behind the excuse that "I am not well educated" "I don't know what to say," "I can't sing," "I can't preach," or "I can't go on a mission."

The next world-changer may be the homeless guy in the trailer park you bring to church or the dirty little kid down the street you invite to Sunday school or youth group. You cannot see someone’s future but God can.

When God calls you to do something, we need to ask ourselves “Is God enough?” Can I put all my trust in God despite all that I think I know?

or can you only trust God if… if you have a good job? if you pass your class? if I have enough money? fill in the Blank.

God often doesn’t reveal His blessings until we step out in faith and sometimes that means going against everything you know before you can receive all that God has.

We should quit trying to tell God why we can’t share our faith, why we're not qualified to do the task he sets before us, why we don't have enough resources, or enough faith and just go do it. No one but God knows what can come from our obedience.”

* **If you want to see God move you need to take the first step in Faith**
* **Don’t worry about the things you cannot do– start doing the things you can and trust God for the rest.**

Is God trying to use you now to do something Great but you keep finding excuses?

Maybe you are looking for something great to do but overlooking the small things God has called you to do.

* **Don’t be focused on doing great things for God. Let God do great things in and through you.**

Did you know that sometimes we are not called to do great things for God? Sometimes God wants us to step aside so he can do great things.

In **John 3:30** John the Baptist said He must become less so that Jesus could become greater. John said this because he had a great number of followers that needed to be following Jesus and not himself. So he knew he needed to move his followers to Jesus.

We even find Jesus, himself, became less so that we could become greater:

**Philippians 2:7** he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Why did Jesus need to do this? Because by his death we could be raised in greatness.

Sometimes the way to greatness is through the lowest of task.

# Hebrews 2:99 we see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, is now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Could it be through our suffering that others would find Christ! This is the case in many countries where they persecute Christians. Those who torture the Christians will often find Christ after seeing the faithfulness of those they torture.

Sometimes Jesus will call us to humble ourselves that someone else may become greater and bring him glory. We are not always called to be great for Christ sometimes we are called to be nobody for Christ.

**🡪We shouldn’t be focused on trying to do great things for God but letting God do great things in and through and around us.**

Get out of God’s way and let him do thing in and through you? He may male you a great public speaker winning thousand for Christ. Or it may be through suffering and persecution winning 1 or 2 people for Christ. The end result is the same. People finding Christ!