

BIG LESSONS FROM LITTLE THINGS

BROTHERS, TONIGHT'S INSPIRATIONAL MOMENT IS ENTITLED "BIG LESSONS FROM SMALL THINGS."

BOB HARRISON RELATES IN HIS BOOK "POWER POINTS FOR SUCCESS" THE STORY OF A MAN WHO GOT A FREE TRIP TO HAWAII BY JOGGING. AS THE STORY GOES, A PHOENIX MAN REVEALED THAT HE MAKES MONEY WHILE JOGGING. AS HE RUNS, HE PICKS UP COINS LYING ON THE SIDEWALKS AND STREETS. HAVING FOUND OVER \$5,000 IN LOOSE CHANGE, HE USED SOME OF THE MONEY TO PAY FOR A VACATION IN HAWAII FOR HIS WIFE AND HIMSELF.

MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT TO EXPERIENCE GROWTH, FINANCIALLY OR OTHERWISE, THEY MUST DO OR WIN SOMETHING BIG. IN REALITY GROWTH COMES ABOUT AS A RESULT OF FAITHFULLY DOING THINGS THAT MIGHT SEEM SMALL OR INSIGNIFICANT. TIM STOREY, AN IN-DEMAND MOTIVATION SPEAKER AND THE FOUNDER OF THE HOLLYWOOD BIBLE STUDY, MADE THIS STATEMENT, "YOU WILL FIND THAT THE BIG THINGS IN LIFE ARE NORMALLY FOUND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LITTLE THINGS."

ANOTHER NOTED AUTHOR WARREN WIERBE MAKES SOME VERY INTERESTING POINTS IN HIS BOOK "BUMPS ARE WHAT YOU CLIMB ON," THE TITLE OF OUR TALK TONIGHT, COMES FROM A CHAPTER IN THE BOOK. YOU AND I ARE TOO IMPRESSED WITH SIZE. IF SOMETHING IS SMALL AND QUIET, WE HAVE THE IDEA THAT IT IS UNIMPORTANT; BUT IF IT IS BIG AND NOISY, THEN IT MUST BE IMPORTANT. BUT GOD DOESN'T MEASURE LIFE THE WAY WE DO. THE BIG THINGS DON'T ALWAYS IMPRESS HIM. FOR THAT REASON WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO DESPISE SMALL THINGS.

WE ALL GOT OUR START IN THIS WORLD AS BABIES, TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON OTHERS. WHEN GOD WANTED TO DELIVER HIS PEOPLE FROM EGYPT, HE DIDN'T SEND AN ARMY-HE SENT A BABY TO A JEWISH FAMILY, AND YEARS LATER, MOSES LED HIS PEOPLE OUT OF BONDAGE. WHEN HE WANTED TO DELIVER MANKIND FROM SIN, HE SENT ANOTHER BABY. JESUS CHRIST CAME AS A BABY THAT HE MIGHT ONE DAY DIE FOR US ON THE CROSS.

GOD USES SMALL THINGS TO ACCOMPLISH GREAT PURPOSES. HE USED MOSES' ROD TO DEFEAT THE ARMIES OF EGYPT, AND DAVID'S SLING TO OVERCOME THE GIANT GOLIATH.

YOU MAY THINK THAT YOU ARE INSIGNIFICANT IN THE GREAT PLAN OF GOD, BUT YOU ARE NOT. YOU MAY SEEM SMALL IN YOUR OWN EYES, AND THIS IS GOOD; BECAUSE GOD RESISTS THE PROUD BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. HOWEVER, DON'T LET YOUR HUMILITY BECOME SIN BY MAKING YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN DO NOTHING FOR GOD.

GOD NOT ONLY USES SMALL THINGS, BUT GOD USES SMALL ACTS THAT SEEM INSIGNIFICANT TO US AND TO OTHERS. THERE IS NO DEED OF SACRIFICE OR KINDNESS THAT GOES UNNOTICED BY GOD. HE CAN USE THESE SMALL DEEDS OF CHRISTIAN LOVE AND ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS.

WHATEVER IS DONE IN LOVE FOR CHRIST WILL HAVE POWER AND INFLUENCE FOR ALL ETERNITY. THE WIDOW BROUGHT TO THE TEMPLE JUST TWO MITES, WORTH LESS THAN AN AMERICAN PENNY, YET, JESUS SAID THAT SHE GAVE MORE THAN ALL THE RICH PEOPLE PUT TOGETHER, AND HER ACT OF WORSHIP HAS BEEN A BLESSING TO PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD FOR CENTURIES.

A PERSON WHO CANNOT BE TRUSTED WITH THE SMALL THINGS CAN NEVER BE TRUSTED WITH THE BIG THINGS! JESUS TELLS US THAT IF WE ARE FAITHFUL IN THAT WHICH IS LEAST WE WILL ALSO BE FAITHFUL IN THAT WHICH IS GREATEST (LUKE 16:10). TO HIM, THE LEAST IS THE GREATEST BECAUSE IT LEADS TO THE GREATEST. THIS CONCEPT APPLIES TO THE DEFINITION OF SUCCESS THAT I DEFINED IN MY TALK LAST MONTH AS DOING YOUR BEST AT THE LEVEL YOU ARE.

IF YOU WANT TO GET TO THE NEXT LEVEL IT REQUIRES YOU TO BE FAITHFUL IN THE LITTLE THINGS THAT WILL LEAD TO BLESSINGS IN THE BIG THING. DAVID PROVED HIMSELF FAITHFUL IN TAKING CARE OF HIS FATHER'S SHEEP, SO GOD GAVE HIM A WHOLE NATION TO SHEPHERD. IF WE ARE FAITHFUL IN THE SMALL THINGS, GOD WILL TRUST US WITH THE BIGGER THINGS IF THIS IS HIS WILL.

A WORD OF CAUTION: "NOT EVERYTHING THAT IS BIG IS NECESSARILY OF GOD. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR US TO MANUFACTURE SUCCESS IN OUR OWN WAY AND DISCOVER THAT GOD WASN'T A PART OF IT. IF YOU ARE HEADING THAT WAY, MY ADVICE IS FOR YOU TO TURN AROUND NOW.

NOT ALL OUR WORKS ARE GOING TO BE BIG IN THE EYES OF MEN AND WELL KNOWN. BUT THAT'S NOT THE IMPORTANT THING. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE DO OUR WORK WELL SO THAT IT WILL BE BIG IN THE EYES OF GOD. COLOSSIANS 3:23 STATES, "WHATEVER WE DO, WE SHOULD DO IT HEARTILY AS TO THE LORD, NOT UNTO

**MEN.” IT IS IN THE SMALL THINGS THAT GOD CAN WORK AND BLESS;
AND THE SMALL THINGS PREPARE FOR THE BIGGER THINGS.**

**IN CLOSING, I WANT TO LEAVE YOU WITH THESE THOUGHTS.
FAITHFULNESS IS A LEARNED BEHAVIOR. PAY ATTENTION TO THE
SMALL DETAILS IN YOUR LIFE WHICH WILL ULTIMATELY LEAD TO
BIGGER THINGS... REMEMBER 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 SMALL IF IT IS DONE TO THE GLORY OF GOD...**