

LITTLE THINGS IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY LUKE 2

Text:

Introduction:

Have you ever noticed that sometimes some of the smallest things in life cause us the most grief? For example; a hangnail, as small as it is can be very painful. The appendix, a small useless member of the body once inflamed can even be fatal.

A small eyelash, once entering the eye can be very bothersome.

And then there are those small things that really distract us and even sometimes disturb us, like unwrapping candy wrappers in the service, or a baby crying. Both of these can be very distracting.

It is amazing to me how that some of the greatest sermons, or lessons in God's word center around little things. For instance;

(John 6:9) "There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?"

But was used to feed about five thousand, and then we see in:

(James 3:4) "Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth."

(James 3:5) "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!"

And what a lesson can be learned from this.

(Mark 12:42-43) "And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. {43} And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:"

Christ used a widow's two small coins, of which were of the least amount of value to teach a lesson to his disciples.

One can hardly travel through Italy without being impressed with the great Michelangelo. One day he was working on a painting. A friend noticed the painting. Days passed. The person returned. He

noticed that no progress had been made. He ask Michelangelo: "Why haven't you been working on the painting?"

The great artist replied, "I've been working day and night on it."

"Well what have you been doing? I can see no changes or additions whatsoever."

Michelangelo replied, "I worked on a finger of a person for a day. I worked on the lobe of an ear for a little bit. I worked on a wrinkle of a face some."

The person asked this question, "why do you spend so much time on trifles?"

The great painter answered, "Trifles make perfection,, and perfection is no trifle."

And so it is God chose to tell the greatest story ever told to the world with a series of trifling or little things; little incidents, little things, little tasks, little people, and little places to give us the story of Christ coming into the world.

1. GOD USES LITTLE PEOPLE

There were many great and wealthy men in Palestine at this time. There were scholars, of the greatest

learning but their ears were not the first to hear the good news of the Savior's birth.

A. The first to hear "Glory to God in the highest" were the Shepherds

1. Shepherds were usually the youngest of the family.
2. Shepherds didn't have much knowledge of things other than sheep.
3. Shepherds lived a simple life.

B. One of the elite was not chosen to carry the babe in her womb, but rather a simple poor girl of Nazareth; Mary.

C. None of the elite men of the city were chosen to head the home in which Christ would be reared. It was a humble carpenter named Joseph.

D Other little people God used

1. David killed Goliath
2. Gideon destroyed the Mideonites with 300 men

3. Little boy's lunch fed 5000 people.

God uses little people. Isn't it amazing? God word tells us in (1 Corinthians 1:27-28) "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; {28} And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:" Thank God He uses little people.

2. GOD USES LITTLE PLACES

A. Jesus was born in a barn instead of a hospital.

B. Jesus bed was a manger instead of a baby bed.

1. By the way before we get real critical of the inn keeper, I believe God knew just exactly what he was doing. Where else would a lamb be born except in a barn with a manger in the room?

2. How would the shepherds found the Lamb except look for Him where lambs were to be?

C. Five thousand (5000) were fed on a hillside.

D. King David was found on a hill.

E. Gideon was found behind a winepress.

F. The Son of God was buried in a borrowed tomb.

1. By the way you can borrow one if you're only going to us it for three days.

G. Moses saw the burring bush in the desert

H. Moody was discovered in a shoe store.

I. B.R. Lakin came from a hollow from Ft. Gay, WV.

Thank God he uses little people and little places!

3. GOD USES LITTLE THINGS

A. God didn't use a caterer to feed 5000, but rather 5 loaves 2 fish.

B. God didn't use a golden rod or a magic wand to part the red sea, but rather a shepherd's staff

C. God didn't use a neon sign to call Moses, but rather a burning bush.

D. God didn't use penicillin to restore sight to the blind, but rather old mud.

E. God didn't use vessels from the temple to turn the water into wine, but rather old discarded vessels found beside the road.

Illustration:

God doesn't need anything big. God needs yielded little things.

Illustration:

You say I don't have much. Well you don't need much.

You say you're not very smart. You don't have to be smart.

You say I'm not very big. You don't have to be big.

God doesn't need anything big. God needs yielded little things.

God used a little town called Bethlehem; some poor shepherds in the field keep watch over their flock by night. A poor little girl from Nazareth, and a poor carpenter from Nazareth to bring about the greatest story ever told.

Thank God, He uses little places, with little people, and little things.

4. GOD USES LITTLE TASK

A. Jesus could have performed something great every day of His ministry, but instead of greatness He took care of details.

1. He could have preached the Sermon on the Mount every day but didn't.
2. He could have raised someone from the dead every day but didn't.
3. He could have fed 5000 thousand every day but didn't.

B. Bigness is produced by taking care of details.

C. No matter what your task or job is, do it to the best of your ability.

Close:

The Christmas story is built around little people who were in little places who did little tasks with little things. Offer you're all and God will bless it much.

The song writer 'penned the words so adequately in the song "Little Is Much When God Is in It", which says,

(Read Song) Little is much.