

Small Things

For who hath despised the day of small things? For they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

– Zechariah 4:10 –

The Jews returning from Babylon to rebuild the temple experienced enormously mixed emotions. While they could rejoice that God had granted them reprieve and strength in their sanctified mission, they nonetheless recalled with melancholy a day when the humble construction site where they now stood was adorned with the grandeur of the Solomonic Temple and served as epicenter to the splendor of that golden age of Israel's history in the land. They needed continual reminders that the "small thing" they were engaged in now was just as important in God's plan as when He inspired King Solomon to assemble Israel's first permanent house of worship. None of those Jews present could have realized that the mean structure they were erecting would serve as the foundation to Herod's overhaul, which would ultimately welcome a poor couple from Nazareth, come from Bethlehem, to dedicate a virgin-born Babe to God's Messianic mission for His life.

As Christians, we are often afflicted with the same spirit as these post-exilic Jews. We know our God is great, and we long for Him to work in large and miraculous ways. We remember that He has done so in the past, and we have even witnessed some of His mighty movements in our own lives and ministries. But we so easily forget that though our God is so big, it is most often His way to work in the small. He reveals Himself not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire, but in the still, small voice. There is no conversion of many Samaritans without a relatively short conversation with a woman at a well. Three thousand cannot be saved in a day before a mere twelve men are meticulously bred for three and a half years. The gospel cannot reach the hearts of multiplied millions in the Gentile world before the lone heart of an Hebrew of the Hebrews from Tarsus is fully conquered. Over and over, it is the pattern of our Lord to use a very small channel to create a deluge of lasting and impactful change.

Do you often feel as though you are not accomplishing much for the Master? Do the answers to your prayers seem small in comparison to how you anticipated He would work? Does the place where the Lord has you now seem to pale in significance to former days when your life and ministry seemed to be influencing so many more? Do not despise the day of small things. If we are faithful, there is nothing to fear. FB Meyer once wrote, "Don't waste your time waiting and longing for large opportunities which may never come. But faithfully handle the little things that are always claiming your attention." This is good advice. Let us embrace the small things God has for us, so that He alone may have the glory for the increase.