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THE BIBLE VIEW

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If You Give What You Have

Bill Brinkworth

I was recently reminded by Pastor R. King's sermon that if we trust Christ by faith, He will do wonderful things with what we have, even if we think it is insufficient. The key is to put faith first! So many never see God's miraculous intervention, because they never take that first step of trusting Him by faith with what they have, or who they are.

The preacher reminded his listeners that:

- A widow of Zarephath had to take a step of faith after the prophet Elijah told her to fetch him a "morsel of bread" (1 Kings 17). After finding out that she was making her and her son's last meal, both widow and prophet had to trust God's provision. Elijah commanded her to make him the bread with the tiny bit of meal and oil she had. She did, and miraculously there was enough for him, the widow, and the son for

that day and for many days to come. God took what she thought was not enough and met her daily needs again and again.

- Another widow also had to take that first step of faith when she had to trust Elisha's method of paying off her creditors in II Kings 4. The prophet found out all the poor woman had was a pot of cooking oil. He then commanded her to fetch as many empty vessels as she could. It is not recorded that she argued or questioned the man of God. She stepped out by faith, and obeyed what she was told to do. She took what she had, the pot of oil, and poured it into one, then two, then three, and then all the borrowed vessels were miraculously filled from the "little" that she had originally. Her selling of the miraculously supplied oil was enough to pay her debts. If she did not take that first step of obedience and used what she had, God may never have done the "impossible"!
- Jesus' disciples had to take an obedient step of faith when they faced the task of feeding 5,000 men, and their wives and children. All they had between them to feed the crowd was a boy's small lunch of five loaves of bread and two fishes (Matthew 14). They also took a step of faith when they handed it to Jesus; instead of arguing "it was not enough" or "it would be foolish to even try to feed the multitudes with so little". They handed it to Christ and, after asking God to bless the little, Jesus took the bread and shared it and shared it and shared it There was enough to feed the massive crowds, and there were even 12 baskets

left over. They took what they had, and trusted that God could do the impossible, and He did.

All throughout the Bible there are many other similar examples where people had very little, but they trusted God to meet their needs with what they had. Anyone can do much with a lot, but God cannot get the glory in the provision as much as He can when the “impossible” little accomplishes great things with help of the mighty hand of God. Seeing His provision also increases one’s faith and gets one closer to the Lord.

Today, God can still do great things with things we do not consider a solution to our needs. Too many excuse not tithing (giving God at least 10% of one’s gross income). They reason “I can barely meet my needs with what I make as it is!” However, there are many that have stepped out by faith, and reason that “God says to give, and He promises to meet my needs.” They give far more than they “can afford” and week after week, see how God faithfully provides. A “little” can go far when God is trusted and involved.

There are others that see themselves without finances, without talent, without ability, yet they give themselves to the Lord without reservation. After a time of surrendering themselves to be used by the Lord, they look back and see what God has done with their lives. In many cases, God did a lot with a “little”.

None of us are prizes. We are all sinners and have repeatedly let God down. He will, however, take whatever “little” we offer for His use, and do great and marvelous things. Take that giant step of faith and see that “little” can be changed into much by the Master’s mighty hand.

“Faith is the daring of the soul to go farther than it can see.” — Clarke

Little Can be Much

Bill Brinkworth

Somehow, many Christians have gotten it into their heads that if God is blessing someone there will be prosperity and ease. Perhaps some of that thinking was drummed into them through the “prosperity Gospel” crowd, who teach that God wants you to be rich and gives one an easy life if they are right with Him. Perhaps it is our own natural thinking that makes us believe that any problems can only mean that we are not right with God, and His hand is against us. Those thoughts and teachings are not often evidenced in the Bible, however.

There were times when God gave peace and prosperity to some at certain times. The majority of times, God’s evidence of power is seen more during “bad” and troubled times. Those times can get one closer to Him and allow one to see God's mighty power.

His miracles were and are performed with the most irrational objects, and resulted in the most illogical solutions. Often God works with a little, rather than much.

Yet, when all was finished, there was no question that God had done a great thing with just a little. Some of these great supernatural occurrences were:

- The earth was created in six days by God only, not over millions of years, and not by many different "accidents," or a big bang. Being created by one God is not the way that a "natural" man would understand. A lot was accomplished with just a little of God's time.
- The people were scattered at the tower of Babel; not by a disease, not by an enemy, but by a "little" confusion of languages. From that small instance, people were scattered and civilization was spread.
- Moses and God's people had a way of escape from the encroaching enemy when the leader simply stretched his rod over the sea. They watched as God took an "impossible" method to open the Red Sea for them to cross to safety. A little wind parted a big sea.
- The walls of a protected enemy were knocked down by a simple shout at Jericho; not by ramming machines, nor by a vast army. A big victory was accomplished by an incident that would hardly be expected to knock those mighty, double walls inward.
- Naaman's leprosy was cured by simply dipping in the Jordan River seven times, not by some doctor's cure or some super drug. A little obedience healed the man in a big way.
- Gideon was vastly out-numbered, but got the huge victory in battle with only 300 men, their shouts, lamps, pitchers, and God's help.

- Under-sized David slew his adversary with a small, smooth stone propelled from his unthreatening sling.
- Vast enemies were chased by little, God-controlled hornets.
- Five, small barley loaves and two fishes fed over 5,000 men and their families.
- A blind man's sight was restored not by surgery or some miracle cure, but by a little of Jesus' spittle and clay.
- Sins of man can be forgiven simply by Jesus' paying for them 2,000 years ago by the blood He shed on Calvary, not by our good works or our payment for them. The death of one "man," Christ, became the most important action in man's history.

Anyone can get by with the help of millions of dollars; there is not much of a miracle in that. There is not always proof that God is in the solution when money bought the way out of the problem. When there is plenty in the checkbook, just about anybody can change any situation. Solving situations with plenty is not necessarily God's fingerprint on the solution.

When God is involved in a situation, He must get the glory. He will get the credit when a "little" does the impossible. Nothing is impossible when God is in the matter. God's involvement is often evident when a little goes a long way and does great and wondrous things. Little is much when God is in it, because God can do anything He desires with anything!

**“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain
what he cannot lose.”**

— Jim Elliot

Little Is Much When God Is in It

Hymn by Kittie L. Suffield

In the harvest field now ripened
There's a work for all to do;
Hark! the voice of God is calling,
To the harvest calling you.

Refrain: *Little is much when God is in it!*

*Labor not for wealth or fame;
There's a crown, and you can win it,
If you go in Jesus' name.*

Does the place you're called to labor
Seem so small and little known?
It is great if God is in it,
And He'll not forget His own.

Refrain.

Are you laid aside from service,
Body worn from toil and care?
You can still be in the battle,
In the sacred place of prayer.

Refrain.

When the conflict here is ended
And our race on earth is run,

He will say, if we are faithful,
“Welcome home, My child—well done!”

Refrain.

“Unless there is within us that which is above us, we shall soon yield to that which is about us.”

— *Forsyth*