

A LITTLE CAN MEAN A LOT

9/1/11

Many people keep away from Christianity because they believe that they have to spend twenty four hours a day, in hard labour serving God. It is true that we serve the Lord, but it is not true that it is hard labour, nor is it true to suggest that everything we do is what God wants and not what we want. The simple reality is that all the things we desire in life, God also desires that we have them. The difference is in the manner we go about achieving our life's ambitions. God has given us the easiest possible way to have a happy and contented life, with all of our basic needs met. He also includes life after death in a far superior body than the one we now dwell in... that's not all that bad for starters. To achieve any of life's goals, there has to be a certain amount of sacrifice... you have to give up some short term pleasures to receive long term benefits. This is the area where God is able to bless us the most. A little sacrifice brings an immediate benefit... many little sacrifices will result in much more than we can imagine.

The simple act of giving leads to a huge benefit.

JOH 6:5 When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? *How are we going to feed such a large crowd?*

6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. *He wanted to see if Philip understood God's potential.*

7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. *Philip thought naturally, not spiritually... a little faith would have gone a long way, as we will soon see.*

8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

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

10 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. *A very small offering was about to achieve a very significant result.*

11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. *An amazing miracle takes place because of a small act by a faithful youth.*

12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

13 Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. *The original contribution remained intact... the lad got back his offering and received more than he gave... this is the way that God works.*

Small grows into big... bigger than you can imagine.

MAR 4:30 And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? **31** It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, **is less than all the seeds that be in the earth:** **32** But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it. *We all start of small, but we can all grow to be mighty... no exceptions if your heart is in it.*

You don't have to be rich or smarter than others to please God.

2COR 8:12 For if there be **first a willing mind**, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. *You have to make a genuine effort first, even if you only have little to offer... and keep making it and the rest will follow.*

A small effort can be a tremendous offering in the eyes of God.

MAR 12:41 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.

42 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: *God recognises genuine sacrifices... no matter how big or small they appear to be.*

44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

A good and positive attitude is your best friend.

2COR 9:6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. *Your blessings act as an indicator of your attitude towards the things of the Lord.*

7 Every man **according as he purposeth in his heart**, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. *This is not just about money... this principle applies to everything we do in the church and in private.*

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: *In everything you think and do.*

The Lord only requires a genuine effort from us... not a superhuman effort. Step out in faith and enjoy the differences for the rest of your life... one day at a time.