

THE POWER OF ONE

Sermon Ideas



Theme Verse:

"Then I heard the Lord saying, "Whom should I send to my people? Who will go to represent us?" I spoke up and said, "I will be the ONE. Send me." - Isaiah 6:8 (TPT)

INTRODUCTION:

Often we are overwhelmed by a sense of personal insignificance. We underestimate our importance in the grand scheme of things. "I am just one. What can just one person do?" God can use us if we will let Him. Helen Keller said, *"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do."* Throughout Scripture we can find a lot of examples of the power of one life.

I. One little Boy – Instrumental in Feeding 5000 (Availability)

A. John 6:9-13 " 9 "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?" 10 "Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) 11 Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. 12 After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, "Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted." 13 So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves."

B. "God uses what you have to fill a need, which you never could have filled. God uses where you are to take you where you never could have gone. God uses what you can do to accomplish what you never could have done. God uses who you are to let you become who you never could have been." – Five Loaves and Two Fishes. Philip Clarke Brewer in Holy Sweat, Tim Hansel, 1987, Word Books Publisher, p. 25.

C. It is not based on one's ability but one's availability. God uses those who make themselves available to Him. He will use you, if you make yourself available to him. That is the key. Are you making yourself available?

D. Isaiah 6:8 (TPT) – Isaiah’s response to God’s call...“Then I heard the Lord saying, “Whom should I send to my people? Who will go to represent us?” I spoke up and said, “I will be the ONE. Send me.”

E. Make yourself available to God to do anything He asks of you, seeking not the gifts, but the Giver.

2. One little Girl – Instrumental in Healing a World Military Leader (Boldness)

A. 2 Kings 5:1-3 “The king of Aram had great admiration for Naaman, the commander of his army, because through him the Lord had given Aram great victories. But though Naaman was a mighty warrior, he suffered from leprosy.[a] 2 At this time Aramean raiders had invaded the land of Israel, and among their captives was a young girl who had been given to Naaman’s wife as a maid. 3 One day the girl said to her mistress, “I wish my master would go to see the prophet in Samaria. He would heal him of his leprosy.”

When there is a person whose heart has been prepared, God always has his messengers. Here, God’s messengers begin with a little captive slave girl. God worked through the unrighteous deeds of Naaman’s own army to bring this little slave girl into his own home to be the instrument of God’s Love.

God uses those who are available--those who know and love the Lord. Here was a small girl, humble, obedient, insignificant to men, living under dire conditions, but with a Romans 8:28 attitude; she was a girl using the problems of life as opportunities or as open doors to witness for God. Though small, weak, and insignificant, this little girl had a holy boldness and knew the God in whom there was healing. She was willing to point others to God, who alone could cure Naaman’s disease.

3. One Woman – Instrumental in Saving a Nation (Courage)

A. Esther 4:14 “14 If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?”

Illustration: Teen Climate Activist Greta Thunberg

B. Philippians 4:13 "For I can do everything through Christ,[a] who gives me strength."

C. Deuteronomy 31:6 “6 Be strong and brave, and don’t tremble in fear of them, because the Eternal your God is going with you. He’ll never fail you or abandon you!”

4. One Man – Instrumental in Saving Mankind from Extinction (Faith)

A. Hebrews 11:7 "It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.

B. Genesis 6:5-8 "5 The Lord observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. 6 So the Lord was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart. 7 And the Lord said, "I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them." 8 But Noah found favour with the Lord.

C. Matthew 17:20 "20 "You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.[a]" So Jesus said to them, "because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

PowerPoint Slide: *"Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom."*
- Nelson Mandela

ONE LIFE

Introduction:

It's hard to believe that we are at the end of the first quarter of 2020. How have you spent your life so far in 2020? Have you received a good return on the investment of your life so far this year? Do you believe you were born for such a time as this? Life is too precious to waste.

Ephesians 5:15-17, *"So be very careful how you live, not being like those with no understanding, but live honourably with true wisdom, for we are living in evil times. Take full advantage of every day as you spend your life for his purposes. And don't live foolishly for then you will have discernment to fully understand God's will."*

1. We Only Have One Life to Live

We have been given a set amount of time to live.

What will you do with your life?

What matters most? Family, Security, Possessions, etc.

What matters most in this life is what we do for God

What does God want for my life and from my life?

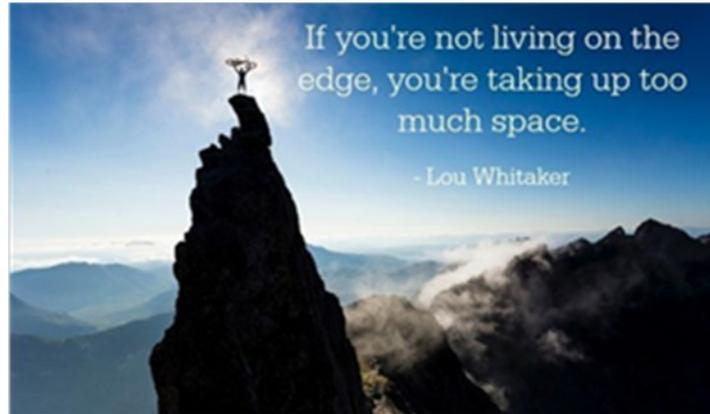
Romans 6:13 - *"Give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God."*

We only have one life to live – how will we choose to live it? Who will we choose to live it for - ourselves or God?

Proverbs 3:6 – *"In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success."*

2. We Only Have One Life to Give

Make the most out of every opportunity



If we aren't living our life to the full (on the edge), we are wasting the most valuable resource we have.

Called to live boldly (use personal example)

Be a living sacrifice and live a life that pleases God. Live your life for purpose. A person who has a heart for God and lives sacrificially pleases God. When we're willing to sacrifice, we reveal our dependence on God - even when we feel that we have nothing

Luke 21:1-2 - The Widow's Mite What made her gift so special/significant? She gave all that she had.

Are we prepared to live our life wholly/completely for Him? We only have one life to live – and we have only one life to give.
Make the most out of every opportunity!

Video Clip: Lord of the Rings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrOqnZdvl6M>

Movie Illustration: Frodo has been charged with a very great task. He knows this mission might very well cost him his life. He must leave every peace and comfort behind. All known security gone. He is standing on the brink of decision - a decision that will change the very course of his life. Will he live for himself or for the greater call – the call that will change the world?

Conclusion:

God gives us the opportunity to change the course of our lives - to pour out what we have kept in reserve for ourselves and to surrender what we have been so carefully guarding and to live His dreams for our lives truly believing they are better and greater than anything we could imagine.