

NOT DESPISING THE DAY OF SMALL THINGS

Zec 4:9 The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you.

Zec 4:10 **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.

Eph 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Eph 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Eph 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Eph 4:4 *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

Mic 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, ***though thou be little among the thousands of Judah*** (*literally, "mall to be," that is "too small to be among"*), *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.

1. We sing that song "O Little town of Bethlehem"
2. Each tribe was divided into it thousands, probably of fighting men, each thousand having its own separate head. The thousand of Gideon was the meanest in Manasseh. Places too small to form a thousand by themselves were united with others, to make up the number.
3. So lowly was Bethlehem that it was not counted among the possessions of Judah. In the division under Joshua, it was wholly

omitted. From its situation, Bethlehem can never have been a considerable place.

4. It lay and lies, east of the road from Jerusalem to Hebron, at six miles from the capital. It was seated on the summit-level of the hill country of Judaea with deep gorges descending east to the Dead Sea and West to the plains of Philistia. 2,700 feet above the sea. It lay “on a narrow ridge” whose whole length was not above a mile.
5. It was the birth place of David, and here also, it after years, he was anointed as king by Samuel.

Luk 2:4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

6. It was at Bethlehem where Rachel died as was buried “by the side of the road. North of the city.
7. The valley east of Bethlehem was the scene of the story of Ruth and Moabites. There are the fields in which she gleaned, and the path by which she and Naomi returned home.
8. And it was from the well of Bethlehem that three of David’s might men fought through enemy lines and risk their very lives for a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem for their King.
9. Bethlehem: the name means “The House of Bread”
10. Out of this little town cam the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. “Whose going forth have been from everlasting.

THE NIGHT OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

1. It was a time of darkness in the moral and spiritual realm. It was indeed night when Jesus was born. Silent, unseen, and unheralded, he was born in a stable and cradled in a manger.
2. For four thousand years before He was born, all salvation had come out of the stable. Abel's lamb, Isaac's ram, Abraham's heifer, and all goats, scapegoats, bullocks, and pigeons, all alike were stable creatures. How fitting that the Lamb of God should be born in a stable.

IT WAS THE SMALL THINGS THAT BROUGHT GREAT VICTORY IN THE BIBLE

Jdg 3:31 And after him was Shamgar the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel.

1Sa 17:40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling *was* in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

2Ki 3:11 But Jehoshaphat said, *Is there* not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may enquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here *is* Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah.

Exo 4:2 And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.

Exo 4:3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.

Exo 4:4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:

1. Boys Lunch, Widows mite, a cup of water in the name of the Lord.

Mar 9:41 For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.

**WHEN GOD CHOOSES US TO BE USED IN HIS KINGDOM WE
MUST STAY SMALL IN OUR OWN EYES**

Pro 15:33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

1Pe 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Isa 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Php 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Php 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Php 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Php 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

Php 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

Act 20:19 Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

Act 20:20 *And* how I kept back nothing that was profitable *unto you*, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,

Act 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Act 20:22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

Act 20:23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

Act 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

1. Saul was hiding, Moses said he was slow of speech, Paul was least of the saints, least of the apostles, chieftest of sinners, Gideon was hiding from the enemy.

Jdg 6:12 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

Jdg 6:13 And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where *be* all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

Jdg 6:14 And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

Jdg 6:15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family *is* poor in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father's house.

Jdg 6:16 And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

GOD IS LOOKING FOR DAVIDS

Act 13:22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

God's to choice of man is contrary to human reason.

1Co 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

1Co 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1Co 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men

1Co 1:27 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;

1Co 1:28 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:

1Co 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

1. Nobody involved in the drama that day in Bethlehem would have ever guessed that David, of all the family of Jesse, would be God's chosen one. (His brothers obviously despised him).
2. Even David's father called him "the youngest" (1 Samuel 16:11) Suggest something other than mere youth. It meant he was the least in his father's estimation; so small was David's in his father's esteem one. that it wasn't considered necessary to include him in the family when the prophet of God called them to sacrifice.
3. Samuel himself had no idea that David was God's chosen one. Samuel was ready to settle upon Eliab, which drew a rebuke from the Lord: "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).
4. Sometimes even the prophet and the preacher have been wrong in the judgment of people.
5. Picture in your mind the seven sons of Jesse standing there: apparently they were magnificent specimens of humanity. In the Bible seven has always been the number of completion.

