

# DESPISE NOT THE SMALL THINGS

Zech. 4:10

Sermon by Donald Townsley

## INTRODUCTION

1. "For who hath despised the day of small things?" --Zech. 4:10
  - (1) This verse is in the context of Zerubbabel building the Temple of God after Babylonian captivity.
  - (2) The people who had returned from Babylon wept with a loud voice because of the insignificance of the Temple being built when compared with the Temple of Solomon -- Ezra 3:12
  - (3) Now, as Zerubbabel finishes it, it appeared in their eyes as nothing -- Hag. 2:3
  - (4) But when the work is God's work, nothing is to be despised--it matters not how small it may seem to be.
2. No one can afford to disregard the small things.
  - (1) Pennies make dollars. . .
  - (2) ABC's make education.
  - (3) Mountains are made of small grains.
  - (4) Rivers are made of small drops of water.
  - (5) Great men have risen from small experiences.
3. Let us look at those who don't ignore small things:

## I. THE MOTHER DOES NOT DESPISE SMALL THINGS

1. The more helpless and weak her baby is the more care she displays.
2. She does not ignore the small things in his conduct as he grows up.
3. She sees in her baby and little boy a man someday.

## II. SATAN DOES NOT DESPISE SMALL THINGS

1. Satan knows if he can cause **INDIFFERENCE** to little things, then he will finally destroy our souls.
2. Missing the services to do something else from time to time may seem small, but Satan know this can be the beginning of you completely quitting.
3. Indifference to immodest dress:
  - (1) Start wearing shorts around the house, then to a few other places, and finally wear them all the time.
4. Indifference to error
  - (1) The devil knows it will grow and finally destroy many -- 2 John 9 - 11; I Cor. 4:6; I John 4:1; 2 Pet. 2:1; Matt. 7:15; Rom. 16:17
5. Indifference to **WHAT** we watch on Television and the Movies we see.
6. Indifference to seeing that the whole counsel of God is taught.
7. Indifference toward the wrong attitudes.
8. Indifference toward male and female relationships.
  - (1) Married men and women becoming too familiar with one another.

### III. THE CHURCH HAD A SMALL BEGINNING

1. Daniel said it would have a small beginning and grow -- Dan. 2: 34 - 35
  - (1) "*A stone was cut out without hands*". . .
  - (2) "*the stone became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth*". . .
2. Jesus said it would have a small beginning in the parable of the Mustard Seed -- Matt. 13: 31 - 32
3. The kingdom did have a small beginning on Pentecost -- Acts 2: 41
4. But, it spread into all the world in just a few years -- Col. 1:23
  - (1) Acts 1:8
  - (2) Mark 16:15 - 16

### IV. CHRIST DID NOT DESPISE THE SMALL THINGS

1. The attitude of Jesus toward small things -- Matt. 18:2 - 6
2. The parable of the Lost Sheep -- Luke 15: 3 - 7
3. The value of One Soul -- Matt. 16:26
4. Matt. 5: 17 - 18
5. Matt. 23:23; Mark. 9:41 "*cup of cold water*"

### V. THE INSPIRED WRITERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT DID NOT DESPISE SMALL THINGS

1. Paul said, "*Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump*" -- I Cor. 5:6; Gal. 5:9
2. James -- "*For whosoever shall keep the whole law and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all*"  
James 2:10

### VI. EXAMPLES OF SOME WHO USED SMALL THINGS:

1. Moses had a rod -- Ex. 4: 1 - 5
2. Shamgar had an ox goad, and with it slayed six-hundred Philistines -- Judg. 3:31
3. David had a sling, and with it he killed Goliath -- I Sam. 17: 49 - 50
4. Dorcas had a needle -- Acts 9: 36 - 39
5. Poor widow had "two mites"-- Mark 12: 41 - 44

### VII. SMALL THINGS IN OUR OWN CONDUCT

1. Little acts of discourtesy -- I Pet. 3:8
2. Little slights and slurs with your friends -- Col. 4:6; James 1:19
3. Little deceptions -- Eph. 4:25
4. Little murmurings -- I Cor. 10:10; Phil. 2:14
5. Little failure to consider the rights of others -- Matt. 7:12
6. Little feelings of being sorry for ourselves -- I Cor. 16:13

### VIII. BRETHREN HAVE DESPISED SMALL THINGS IN THE GOSPEL -- they are not small, but are considered small by some.

1. The local church
2. The individual Christian -- I Tim. 5:14
3. The work of the church
4. The second law of pardon
5. To be pure . . .

## CONCLUSION

1. Let none of us be guilty of despising the day of small things.

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