

Little Things Matter

Fuel Your Faith 13

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Have you ever dismissed acts of service you thought about doing because, in your mind, they seemed insignificant and mundane?

Today on Fuel Your Faith we'll talk about a passage out of [Matthew 10](#) that encourages us to give, serve, and demonstrate mercy to others ... even when our small gift might seem to be of little lasting value.

In [Matthew 10](#) we read about the commissioning of the 12. They are sent out on a limited commission that would be anything but easy. Jesus warns them, "I'm sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as serpents and as innocent as doves," 10.16. He warns them of persecution and betrayal. He says the gospel message will not always bring peace. There will be trouble at times. But while doing that, he also fills their hearts with encouragement. "Don't be afraid," Jesus says. "You are valuable. You are important. You are loved. You are protected." Therefore, Jesus calls the disciples to courage and not to turn back on the mission to which they've been called.

But we really want today to focus on what is said in verses 40-42. Jesus says:

- **40** "The one who welcomes you welcomes me, and the one who welcomes me welcomes him who sent me.
- **41** Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward. And anyone who welcomes a righteous person because he's righteous will receive a righteous person's reward.
- **42** And whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, truly I tell you, he will never lose his reward."

Here is the principle we want to pull out of these verses: God's eyes are always on those who those who labor for Him and work for good. The one who receives or welcomes the servant of God also receives Jesus and His father. And those who do so receive an amazing sharing of blessing. "Anyone who welcomes a righteous person because he's righteous will receive a righteous person's reward." God is ready to shower His rewards on every person who receives His people because they are His people.

And then Jesus adds, "whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, truly I tell you, he will never lose his reward." The "little ones" in this verse are believers who might seem insignificant and unimportant. Servants working in God's kingdom may appear trifling when compared to the movements of presidents and governors, generals and statesmen; but they are not insignificant in the eyes of God, who never forgets any of his people. Jesus is not speaking of a small service rendered to a great person, but of a small service rendered to a small person. These may be new believers who are just learning

what it means to be a Christian, ... or more mature believers who have devoted years of service outside the public spotlight. Jesus wants us to know that any service done to any of His people is regarded as service to Him and will not go unnoticed or unrewarded.

The little things matter. It could be something as simple as visiting the sick. Meeting the needs of strangers. Visiting those in prison. Jesus looks ahead to the judgment day when he will say to the righteous, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me," [Matthew 25.40](#). These types of actions are the actions of mercy. This is love in action ... love showing mercy.

27 years ago, a young couple moved far away from their home to up north, in Indiana, so the young man could begin to preach. For the first 3 months, the young man struggled in the pulpit. One night, after a particularly bad performance, the inexperienced preacher walked to the back of the auditorium with his head bowed with disappointment and frustration. A deacon walked up to him with a caring smile on his face. As the young preacher came into the entryway that deacon said the nicest words of encouragement that have never been forgotten. It was a turning point. And, as this now much older preacher remembers how all throughout that year people bought him books, provided him with office furniture, took him out to lunch, had the young couple in their homes, and spent time with him and his wife. People did what they could and were happy to share in the opportunity God had provided. Those little things mattered. And they cemented a relationship that has lasted almost three decades.

It has been said, "whenever we become the source of blessing for others, we are blessed; and whenever other believers become a source of blessing to us, they are blessed. In God's kingdom, the least believer can share the blessings of the greatest, and no one's good will will go unrewarded."

What are some little things you can do today to receive others in the kingdom? Your kind words of encouragement said at the right time can have an impact that will last for decades. A deed done. A visit made. A prayer offered. A scripture read. Even the smallest gift ... all will go far in making the difference for other servants of the Lord. May we all strive to leave the world a better place ... by knowing that ... little things matter. And the greatest thing, ... all of this is noticed by our Lord who promises the smallest of actions bring the greatest of blessings.

Do you believe?

True love always shows mercy.

Thank you for listening to Fuel Your Faith. Join us again tomorrow as we talk more about the need to demonstrate the mercy of Christ.