

GREAT THINGS IN SMALL PACKAGES

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THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

We have a God who is awesome (big), powerful and astounding, but He seems to delight in glory by using the littlest, most mundane, seemingly insignificant things and people. Even in telling the greatest stories ever told, God used a series of little incidents, little things, little tasks, little people, and little places, when narrating the coming of Christ on earth. In Luke's account, there is nothing that suggests bigness.

1. God uses little people.

- 1.1. Mary, an ordinary peasant woman, was chosen to bear the baby Jesus.
- 1.2. Joseph, a simple, hard-working carpenter, was chosen to be the head of the family into which Jesus was born.
- 1.3. Little Shepherds, who were treated as "social outcasts" were chosen to receive the angel's announcement.
- 1.4. Goliath was killed by little David.
- 1.5. A little boy, with his lunch given to Jesus, fed a multitude.

2. God uses little things.

- 2.1. The manger was not a crib, or a baby bed. It was a feed trough used for livestock, a lowly thing.
- 2.2. The swaddling clothes were nothing but rags, probably ragged cloth used to wash the animals which fed from the manger.

3. God uses little places and little tasks.

- 3.1. Bethlehem was a little town, the place where our Lord first appeared on earth.
- 3.2. God used insignificant places for great events such as a borrowed room for the last supper, a hillside to feed 5000 men, a borrowed tomb for Jesus, among others.

3.3 Jesus asked the woman at the well for a little drink of water and showed her that He was the Living Water (Jn. 4).

3.4 David used the little task of playing the harp to quiet the king.

4. Little Tasks Bring Great Results and Blessings.

- 4.1. The shepherds' little task of leaving the flock to go and see the Christ child has been foretold for thousands of years.
- 4.2. Jesus chose ordinary and mostly uneducated men to be His apostles who fulfilled the great commission and has been passed on from generation to generation.
- 4.3. The little acts of kindness determine our faith, e.g. feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, and visiting the imprisoned. Thus, eternal life is promised to the righteous.

Conclusion: God has never gone after the best, the brightest, or the grandest. He has always asked the small, the weak, the humble, and the insignificant to do things for Him to accomplish His will. The little things in the Christmas story are the ways God chose to send His son in this world. God can use us, too, if we trust Him. The little things and possessions in our lives can be great if we offer and surrender them to God with all our hearts, to be used for His glory.

Reflection: What little possessions do you have that you allow God to use for His service and glory?

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, we thank You for the small steps we take in faith, for the small acts of love we show to others, and for the small victories we have in our lives. Help us to remember that in Your greatness, no action is too small and no step is insignificant. In Jesus' Name. AMEN!*

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