

MAGH

Juan Perez
27 April 2025

The Little Things

1. The Parable of the Shrewd Manager

Luke 16:1-13 NLT

[1] Jesus told this story to his disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer's money. [2] So the employer called him in and said, 'What's this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.' [3] "The manager thought to himself, 'Now what? My boss has fired me. I don't have the strength to dig ditches, and I'm too proud to beg. [4] Ah, I know how to ensure that I'll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.' [5] "So he invited each person who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation.

He asked the first one, 'How much do you owe him?' [6] The man replied, 'I owe him 800 gallons of olive oil.' So the manager told him, 'Take the bill and quickly change it to 400 gallons.' [7] "And how much do you owe my employer?" he asked the next man. 'I owe him 1,000 bushels of wheat,' was the reply. 'Here,' the manager said, 'take the bill and change it to 800 bushels.'

[8] "The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light.

[9] Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home. [10] "If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. [11] And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? [12] And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own? [13] "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."

God looks at the looks at the little things. "If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities."

He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much.

So the little things can be as important as they are training grounds for the bigger challenges.

But how often are we focussed on what we see as the big things in our lives that we take our eyes off the ball with the little things?

It may be in the little things we are missing where the pearls are hidden.

Juan to share on Carlos SMS re Target 20 years ago – Juan to read SMS and share the story.

I had not idea what a big impact this little thing had 20 years ago and what impact it is having now as my son starts to move towards marriage and growing his own family.

Gentlemen – join me in reflecting on the little things we are missing or holding off as we are so focussed on what we see is more important. Let's pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us on identifying these things.

Let's pray.

2. Gratitude for Life's Challenges

Romans 5:3-8 NLT

[3] We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. [4] And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. [5] And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. [6] When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. [7] Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. [8] But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

As Apostle Paul says in the above verses – the challenges help us develop endurance. [4] And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. [5] And this hope will not lead to disappointment.

He doesn't say when you have a big problem. He talks about when we "run into" problems and trials. So just the ones that that we run into at any time.

But then Apostle Paul describes that this leads to – first endurance, then strength of character and then this character strengthens our hope of salvation which will not disappoint.

Our tests lead to big impacts.

Termites are a poignant example of how small things make a big difference. Generally considered a pest, less than 4% of termites in the world actually infest homes. Most termites are critical to natural ecosystems because they help recycle dead wood from trees. The nitrogen-rich soil these detritivores create has incredible benefits. Termite soil on farms can increase crop yield by 300%!

Smallest of creatures yet massive impact.

Apostle Paul tells us that "we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love."

So not only does he teaches us how important life's challenges are but then reminds us that He sent the Holy Spirit to fill us with love as we face these challenges.

Thank you God!

We must be grateful for life's challenges knowing that they will make us stronger but also knowing God wants us to overcome them so He can give us more. And He's sent His Holy Spirit to help us on this journey.

Wow how good is our God!

So gratitude for life's challenges is key.

But how often do we push back on life's challenges?

Yet the ones we overcome make us stronger and give us lessons we remember for life.

Gentlemen, when was the last challenge you had? Please reflect on your attitude towards it. Did you whine and complain along the way?

Or were you grateful and run into it with confidence in God's support and guidance?

Lets pray.

3. Attitude Shows Integrity

Juan example of exit clean attitude versus food poisoning. Chalk and cheese.

But here is an example of inconsistency. During the day I was one thing and at night I was another.

I should have been grateful during the day.

Apostle Paul challenges us to live in integrity in 2 Corinthians 8: 8-9

I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

In Proverbs 11: 1-5 we hear:

The Lord detests dishonest scales,
but accurate weights find favor with him.
When pride comes, then comes disgrace,
but with humility comes wisdom.
The integrity of the upright guides them,
but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.
Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath,
but righteousness delivers from death.
The righteousness of the blameless makes their paths straight,
but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness.

We are called to have integrity across all we do.

Perhaps I wouldn't have had to be challenged by food poisoning had my attitude been different during the day?

God is interested in all we do. He doesn't segregate across work or home or compartments in our lives.

Will we be honest and have integrity across all we do?

Let's pray.

4. Impact

As Christians we don't need to have grand gestures to have an impact.

How we demonstrate Christ like values in all we do will have a big impact.

Juan to share re woman at church.

I saw this woman's heart soften next to me as the service progressed.

All I did was observe and offer to help. It was what she needed and it turns out her situation is so similar to where my wife and I were just 4 years ago.

Holy Spirit you know where we are needed and your timing is perfect!

Luke 1:13-17 NLT

[13] But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. [14] You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, [15] for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even

before his birth. [16] And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. [17] He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the Godly.”

My family have actively pushed back on church. But I don't give up hope and faith they will be saved.

Ezekiel 11:19-20 NLT

[19] And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. I will take away their stony, stubborn heart and give them a tender, responsive heart, [20] so they will obey my decrees and regulations. Then they will truly be my people, and I will be their God.

I know their hearts can be softened as I had the hardest most resistant heart and yet God saved me. Juan to share how it happened.

God did it to me and I know He can do it again and again.

Please place in the chat anyone in your immediate circle of family or friends you pray will be saved.

Please join me in praying for them.