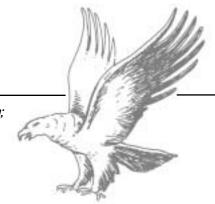


"Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31



June 5, 2011

Faithful in Little Things

Success in life is largely a product of how we use the little opportunities that God sends our way every day, rather than waiting for big ones that never come.

"He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much" (Lk. 16:10).

Jesus is addressing a common fallacy in human thinking that prevents most of us from achieving our potential in life. We convince ourselves that we cannot accomplish great things because we lack adequate resources, so we do nothing. In the meantime, we ignore countless little opportunities that God sends our way to achieve the very goals we say we want to achieve. By neglecting the little things in life, we lose the big ones as well.

In this proverb, Jesus is teaching us that the secret to accomplishing great things in life is found in how we use the little things God gives us. If we use the little things wisely, the big things will take care of themselves; if we misuse the little things placed in our care, the big ones will suffer, too.

Take, for example, our use of *time*. Many of us never get around to completing the important goals we set for ourselves because we "don't have enough

time." In reality, we have plenty of time; it's just spread out in small chunks over a long period. But instead of using those small chunks wisely, we fritter them away chasing more trivial interests. After spending a whole lifetime in that manner, we have little to show for it. So a whole life is wasted because we were not faithful in our use of the minutes that comprised that life.

This principle also applies in our use of *money*. One of the greatest hindrances to people using their money wisely is the excuse, "If I were rich, I would...." Of course, we don't consider ourselves rich, so the rest of the scenario is left uncompleted. In the meantime, a lot of money slips through our fingers, squandered on trinkets and pleasures, that could have gone toward more worthwhile goals, had we made better decisions along the way.

Finally, consider the application of this principle to our *character*. It's usually not the big sins that trip us up and hurt us. It's the little character flaws that make us small people: the gossip, the petty jealousies, the careless thoughts and words, the bad work habits. These are the little behaviors that we pay no attention to, because they seem so insignificant. Yet they combine to create a character that is weak and pathetic. Our life's portrait is painted by such small brush strokes.

If we want our life to count for something, we must train ourselves to see the little things in our life as building blocks for something greater. We must seize every minute of every day as an opportunity to do something meaningful. We must use our money carefully, not only to have it grow for ourselves, but to share with others in need. We must watch every thought, every word, every deed, as matters of great importance. Because they are.

Being faithful in the little things of life is a habit that must be carefully cultivated. It does not come easily. But if we will train ourselves to think in terms of the little things in our life, we will some day come to realize the value of that investment. We will be counted as "faithful in much," because we were faithful in what was least.

- David King

