

NO SUCH THING AS TOO SMALL

I. [Matthew 10:42](#)

A. Jesus' words in [Matthew 10:42](#) (NIV) seem appropriate for this morning: *"And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is My disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."*

B. The testimonies of those who have received a Shoebox Gift via Operation Christmas Child are superabundant and amazing. The pictures showing the joy on children's faces yank tears out of our eyes. The stories that are birthed from this endeavor are often times beyond extraordinary. I'm still very glad we do this each year and I pray the impact far exceeds our wildest hopes and expectations!

C. When it comes to our Lord, there's no such thing as too small. God has a reputation for doing big things with small things. He used a little boy's lunch to feed thousands. He referenced small things like mustard seeds, comparing them to faith that can move mountains. He likened yeast to the Kingdom of God. In [Luke 21:1-4](#) (ESV) Jesus shares about a small offering: **1 Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, **2** and He saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. **3** And He said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. **4** For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." (How many of you think that widow died of starvation? What a massive treasure she'd laid up in Heaven!)**

D. My Dad had a saying for swellheads who liked to bloviate--he'd say: "Don't let your bullfrog mouth get out in front of your tadpole butt." Goliath had a mouth like that! Truth is, we dare not see ourselves as anything but expendable. "Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a bunch of wretches like us!" But we should also not see ourselves as too small to be used by God to accomplish big things. We can ask David about that! With God, small goes a long way and humility looms large!

E. We are now wading into the *holy-day* season, the season where we celebrate Thanksgiving and Incarnation. For some, "It's the most wonderful time of the year!" Others pull their blinds down and say 'Bah humbug!' But even if *wonderful* isn't how you'd describe it, I do hope you see the season as opportunistic, especially as it relates to sharing the Good News about Jesus. How might the Lord use you this season to touch the life of someone else? Will you ask Him to use you? Ask Him to put someone on your heart? Will you respond if He prompts you? Are you willing to hand Him your sack lunch or your copper coins? Are you willing to yield to Him your small and ordinary self?

F. Three small but enormously potent Scriptures will take us to prayer.

1) [Psalm 41:1-3](#) (NLT) **1 Oh, the joys of those who are kind to the poor! The Lord rescues them when they are in trouble. **2** The Lord protects them and keeps them alive. He gives them prosperity in the land and rescues them from their enemies. **3** The Lord nurses them when they are sick and restores them to health.**

2) [Proverbs 11:24-25](#) (NIV) **24 One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. **25** A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.**

3) [John 3:16](#) (ESV) **16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

*** Close with Prayer...**

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[Matthew 10:42](#) (NIV)

42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is My disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.

[Luke 4:1-4](#) (ESV)

1 Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, **2** and He saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. **3** And He said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. **4** For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Psalm 41:1-3 (NLT)

1 Oh, the joys of those who are kind to the poor! The Lord rescues them when they are in trouble. **2** The Lord protects them and keeps them alive. He gives them prosperity in the land and rescues them from their enemies. **3** The Lord nurses them when they are sick and restores them to health.

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24 One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. **25** A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

John 3:16 (ESV)

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Film Clips & Other Links

Millersport Covenant Church Sermon Podcasts (MP3s on iTunes)

<http://millersportcc.com/feed/podcast>

Small Things God Uses

<http://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Small-Things-God-Uses>

The Journey of a Shoebox in 3 Minutes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIC_sHK4mjs

Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Gifts in Madagascar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxbmnvYEmqQ>

What To Be Thankful For? - SevntyOne

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHj1dcQKZD4>

What Does the Bible Say About Giving Money? - John Piper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBuDK7bQB-4>

Bonus Stuff

Proverbs 19:17 (VOICE)

17 Whoever cares for the poor makes a loan to the Eternal; such kindness will be repaid in full and with interest.

Proverbs 21:13 (ESV)

13 Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.

Leviticus 25:35-37 (ESV)

35 If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. **36** Take no interest from him or profit, but fear your God, that your brother may live beside you. **37** You shall not lend him your money at interest, nor give him your food for profit.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8 (ESV)

7 If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, **8** but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.

1 John 3:16-18 (ESV)

16 By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. **17** But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? **18** Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

A Little Poem

Author Unknown

Shamgar had an ox-goad,
David had a sling,
Samson had a jawbone,
Rahab had a string,
Mary had some ointment,
Aaron had a rod,
Dorcas had a needle,
All were used for God.

We Need More Edward Kimballs

By Charles Stanley

You do not have to be famous, clever, or rich to affect the lives of others. All you must do is walk in the good works which God has determined for your life. You can have an eternal impact when you do. Edward Kimball did.

Like those who listened to Christ in his day, Kimball was an ordinary man. A Sunday school teacher, he was impressed one day to share the good news with a Boston shoe clerk. After nervously pacing outside the store several times before entering, he found the young man in the storage room. Kimball shared God's love, and the clerk received Christ as his Savior.

That was 1858, and the clerk's name was Dwight L. Moody, who God greatly used as a Bible evangelist and teacher. But the story does not stop there.

Several years later, a pastor named Fredrick B. Meyer was stirred by Moody's teaching and launched a nationwide preaching ministry. After listening to Meyer, a college student named Wilbur Chapman accepted Christ. Chapman later employed former ballplayer Billy Sunday as an evangelist while Chapman worked for the YMCA.

Following a campaign conducted by Billy Sunday in Charlotte, North Carolina, a group of enthusiastic businessmen (who attended Sunday's revival) sponsored a crusade under the leadership of Mordecai Hamm. In that audience one night, a young man received Christ. His name was Billy Graham.

It all began with a simple witness of a little known Sunday school teacher, Edward Kimball.

- This story was taken from a letter written by Charles F. Stanley on behalf of *In Touch Ministries*.

Charles Spurgeon's on His Conversion

I was miserable, I could do scarcely anything. My heart was broken to pieces. Six months did I pray, prayed agonizingly with all my heart, and never had an answer. I resolved that in the town where I lived I would visit every place of worship, in order to find the way of salvation. I felt I was willing to do anything if God would only forgive me. I set off determined to visit all the chapels, and though I deeply venerate the men who occupy those pulpits now, and did so then, I am bound to say, that I never heard them once fully preach the gospel. ... At last, one snowy day, I found rather an obscure street and turned down a court, and there was a little chapel. I wanted to go somewhere, but I did not know this street. It was the Primitive Methodists' chapel. I had heard of this people from many, and how they sang so loudly that they made people's heads ache; but that did not matter. I wanted to know how I might be saved, and if they made my head ache ever so much, I did not care. So sitting down, the service went on, but no minister came. At last a very thin-looking man came into the pulpit. He opened the Bible and read these words: "Look unto me and be ye saved, all ye ends of the earth." Just setting his eyes upon me, as if he knew me all by heart, he said: "Young man, you are in trouble!" Well, I was, sure enough. Says he: "You will never get out of it unless you look to Christ." Then, lifting his eyes, he cried, as only a Primitive Methodist could do, "Look, look, look!" I saw at once the way of salvation. O, how I did leap for joy at that moment! I know not what else he said, I was so possessed with that one thought. ... I looked until I could almost have looked my eyes away, and in heaven I will look on still, in my joy unspeakable.

- This is the story of Charles Spurgeon's conversion, in his own words. The preacher whom Spurgeon describes was the Rev. Robert Eaglen. Has anybody ever heard of Eaglen? I doubt many. But his preaching in a cold little mission station, by its effect on Spurgeon, had a huge impact throughout the world. Don't think your service for God trivial. You don't know what He may do with it. Taken from Charles H. Spurgeon: *His Faith and Works*, H.L. Wayland, 1892.