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*Ye Are the Light of the World
 Oh, Christian, do not hide your light!
 For ye are the light of the world,
 But keep it trimmed and burning bright,
 For ye are the light of the world.*

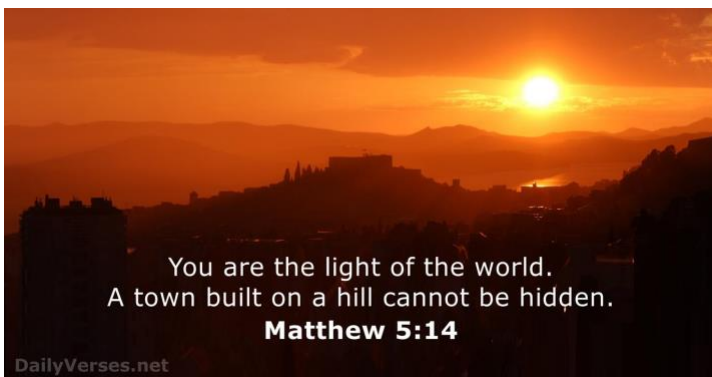
*Go show to all the path of right,
 For ye are the light of the world,
 Go bring the straying back to light,
 For ye are the light of the world.*

*Oh, do not let your light burn low,
 For ye are the light of the world,
 But keep it bright and onward go,
 For ye are the light of the world.*

Chorus:
*For ye are the light of the world,
 For ye are the light of the world;
 Then keep your lamps all burning bright,
 For ye are the light of the world.*

WORDS: Pearl Hatchett, date unknown
ARRANGED BY: Emmett S. Dean, 1876

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Small Things

One of our first foster sons came to us at three and a half months of age, and we had him until just after his third birthday. During that time, we worked at building a good relationship with his biological mother during frequent supervised visits. We also encouraged her to get the training and secure a job sufficient to support herself and her baby. She did that, and eventually our little boy was able to return home.

Since we were the only parents he had known, it was a hard transition for him, and I had several conversations to reassure him we still loved him, and he could always come and visit any time his mother could arrange it. I repeatedly told him, "There will always be a bed at our house with your name on it."

Imagine my surprise when he came for his first weekend visit, and shortly after arriving he stomped into the kitchen and announced, "I have looked everywhere, and my name is *not* on that bed anywhere!" Of course, he had taken my words literally, so I quickly grabbed a roll of masking tape and a Sharpie and went to be sure his bed had his name not only on the footboard, but the headboard as well. It was a small thing to me, but to him it was vital.

Another of our three-year-old foster sons came to us directly from the hospital with severely scalded hands. He was hurt and extremely angry, to the point of being violent. The first day in our home, he had ten kicking, screaming, swearing, hitting, and biting temper tantrums. The only way I could control

him was to fold him in a fetal position with his back to my chest and my arms low enough to prevent him biting me. It took many months to dampen his anger any at all.

At one point we were offered a puppy, and hoping it would have a calming effect, we accepted. Shortly after that we had a visit planned with this child's mother. When I told him, he promptly announced he would take the puppy to show his mom. I panicked.

I called the caseworker and explained the situation. I knew I could forbid the dog to go, but I knew it would launch a session of rage, which would ruin his visit with his mother. The caseworker asked, "Is the dog housebroken," and I had to tell him not yet. He replied, "Well, Mrs. Arrowood, you have much more experience than I in these sorts of situations, so you will have to decide."

WHAT?

This was long before digital cameras of any sort existed. I thought long and hard, then called a good Christian sister, "Do you have a Polaroid camera?" She did. "Would you be willing to come and take a picture of our boy and his puppy, right now? Our visit is in an hour."

That sister rushed to our house, took that picture, and handed it to our son to take to show his mother. To her it was a small thing, but to me, my son, and his mother it meant the difference between a reasonably pleasant visit and a meltdown that could have lasted for days.

I recently had another small encounter with a Bible class student and her mom. I substitute taught for a few weeks with a second and third grade class. It was a small group, but one student tried to dominate the entire hour. She finished my sentences, blurted answers to questions before others could respond, insisted on pointing out how to do paperwork on other students' papers, and in general wanted control. I took her aside and explained, "I know you know all the answers. You are very bright, but we need to allow the other students to think and learn, too."

I might as well have been talking to a wall. The domination continued, until one morning I bumped into her mother in the auditorium before worship. The mother pointedly asked how her daughter was doing in class. I noticed the child stood nearby, listening.

I chose to tell her mother, "She participates a lot in class." I did not mention the domination; however, her mother replied, "She talks a lot." I told her, "Yes, but she is very bright, and she knows her Bible very well." All those things were true.

The following week in class, that child was a perfect student. She took turns, she allowed me to teach without interruption, and I could not have asked for anyone better behaved. All she needed was to be recognized for her self-worth. It was a small thing for me to do that, but to her it meant so much. We never know how small things can change another person. May we always be willing to do those small things.

Wilburta Arrowood, Napoleonville, LA

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Small Things

Small things can make a big difference.

Small has many synonyms; little, slight, unimportant, trivial, insignificant, meager, runty, immature, lesser, minute, minor, and insufficient are a few.

Jesus often took something small and used it to make a difference. Five loaves and two fish fed over 5,000 with leftovers. Reattaching an ear returned hearing to Malchus. Calling a few fishermen has led to over 2.3 billion in our world today following Christ.

Small things are important in two of Jesus' parables: a tiny seed and a little yeast. (Matthew 13:31-33; Luke 13:18-21). Both parables make the point that small things can make a huge change in the kingdom of God. The mustard seed grows into a big tree, and the yeast leavens the whole loaf of bread. What starts small grows, increases, and is effective, working unseen on the inside.

The change isn't automatic. The seed must be buried in the ground. The yeast must be concealed in the dough. Then the transformation starts slowly, quietly, and unnoticed. The outcome is amazing. A tiny mustard seed grows into a tree ten to twelve feet high. A bit of yeast expands, is baked, and eventually becomes a delicious loaf of bread.

I believe small things still make a difference in the kingdom. An invitation, a note, a text, a meal, a prayer, a check, a ride, a word, can all be the beginning of something bigger. I've seen it happen!

The wife of a potato farmer was instrumental in transforming a life. A 12-year-old boy (who did not attend church or Sunday school) was sent to her Vacation Bible School class. She captured his interest teaching from Genesis about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He had never heard of these men. She invited him to church. He went. She invited him to lunch with her family. He went. Like the parable of the mustard seed, she too planted a seed, in the boy's heart. Once inside the seed grew as others watered. The boy gave his life to Christ. He went on to get a Bible degree at a Christian university, followed by two master's degrees and finally a PhD. His dissertation came from the book of Genesis, where he first learned about God. He has been instrumental in planting several churches, writing books and commentaries, preaching the Gospel for over fifty years both in the US and abroad, teaching and mentoring at Christian universities, leading a Christian university as President, directing a global effort to help internationals receive Bible and ministry degrees, consulting with agencies that serve at-risk children and families, and shepherding, as an elder, in his congregation. Thousands have been affected, influenced, and transformed by this man. It started when the wife of a potato farmer did something small. She planted a seed in his heart.

If you want to be effective in the kingdom, just do something small. Pray for that lost neighbor, get together with your co-worker for coffee, encourage a tired mom, send a text of thanks, invite your friend to a Bible study. That's a start. God is the one with power, working quietly and unnoticed on the heart.

Mother Teresa said, "I don't do big things; I do small things with great love!"

That's our challenge, do *small things* with great love and make a difference in the kingdom.

Sally Shank, Edmond, Oklahoma



It's The Little Things

Small children were important to Jesus. ¹³ *Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people,* ¹⁴ *but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven,"* Matthew 19:13-14. He blessed those precious little ones and taught His apostles how important little children are.

In 2 Kings 5:1, we learn that Naaman was a powerful military leader in his country, but he had a big problem. *He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper.* Verse 2 tells us that a little girl from Israel had been taken captive and was now a servant to Naaman's wife. She wished aloud to her mistress that Naaman would go to the prophet in Israel who could heal him of his leprosy.

At first Naaman was not impressed with the "treatment" for his leprosy. He thought it was beneath his dignity and expectations, so he initially refused to dip himself seven times in the Jordan River. His servant reasoned with him in 2 Kings 5:13-14, ¹³ *... his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"* ¹⁴ *So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.* Once he submitted to Elisha's instructions, his leprosy was cured. Had it not been for that little servant girl, his fate would have been a miserable ending.

Little things mean a lot. Jesus used a little boy's lunch of only a few small loaves and fish, to feed thousands. Zacchaeus was small in stature, yet he hosted Jesus in his home. In Matthew 13:32, Jesus

explained that even though the mustard seed is tiny, it can grow into a great tree.

Jesus commended the widow for contributing her few pennies. Though the amount she gave seems paltry, it was all she had so she gave it. *And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box,"* Mark 12:43. How many of us give all we have? Her small gift was just as important as were the gifts of great value given by others. He blesses those who give even just a cold drink of water to the thirsty or show kindness to those in need.

We all have beautiful memories of our children when they were small. One of my sons would often bring me flowers that he picked just for me. Sometimes they were dandelions, but they were priceless indeed. One time he gave me a very special flower. While visiting a beautifully landscaped historic site in the DC area, my precious son picked a beautiful tulip and presented it to me! Other visitors were not so happy, but I certainly was.

On another occasion, I was in a panic about something. My other son, a teenager at the time, said, "Mom, it's okay. I've got your back." For the life of me, I cannot remember why I was in a panic, but I have never forgotten his calming words of support.

We often hear people say, "Don't sweat the small stuff." In most cases, that might be good advice. But we know that it is not the size of the act or the gift. It is the size of the heart that acts and/or gives. Little things do mean a lot.

Thank you, God, for the little things that bless our lives every day.

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, Missouri

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Salt and Light



Besides table salt, one of my favorite seasonings is called Morton's "Nature's Seasons". It's got a dark blue cap and yellow label. It really enhances food! I

also like "Mrs. Dash." It has lots of varieties to choose from that bring out the flavor of foods.

People who love God should be like a good seasoning, bringing God's grace to others and enhancing the world around them....

"Let your speech always be with grace, SEASONED, as it were with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person." (Colossians 4:6)

"You are the SALT of the earth. But if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore." (Mark 5: 13)

"So, encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

"The sovereign Lord has given me His words of wisdom, so that I know how to comfort the weary. Morning by morning He wakens me and opens my understanding to His will." (Isaiah 50:4)

We are God's spice of life. He has given all of us His words of wisdom in the Bible. We can share a touch from the Lord by a word of encouragement, a prayer, a Bible study and sharing the saving knowledge of Jesus with someone. We can be the one to bring hope to the hurting, lost, or discouraged. It just takes a little time. There are so many little ways we can season with salt. We don't want to become "tasteless" in the world around us.

By themselves, salt and seasonings are small things. Used appropriately, they enhance the flavor of any given dish. Likewise, Christians should enhance life for all who are around them.

Marilyn Pecinovsky, Cresco, Iowa

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Sunrise
The Newsletter For Women By Christian Women

Sunrise is a monthly newsletter written and/or assembled by members of the Rolla Church of Christ. Sunrise is printed and distributed (primarily via email) to individuals and congregations around the country. All previous issues can be accessed by going to <http://www.seekgrowserveandlove.org>. Click on the Resources tab, then on Sunrise Newsletter. You will find the current issue plus all previous issues.

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