

## Little Things in the Christmas Story — 12/26/21

**TEXT-** *"Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."* Luke 2:12.

**INTRO**—One day Michelangelo was working on a painting. A friend observed the painting as the days passed. He noticed that no progress had been made. He asked of Michelangelo: "Why haven't you been working on the painting?" The great artist replied, "I've been working day and night on it." "Well, what have you been doing? I can see no changes whatsoever." Michelangelo replied, "I worked on a finger of a person for a day. I worked on the lobe of an ear for a little bit. I worked on a wrinkle of a face some." The person asked this question, "Why do you spend so much time on trifles?" The great painter answered, "Trifles make perfection, and perfection is no trifle."

It is interesting how that God chose in telling the greatest story the world has ever known a series of little incidents, little things, little tasks, little people, and little places to give us the story of Christ's coming into the world. You could not read the account in Luke without being impressed with the fact that there is nothing here that man calls bigness.

There were many big men and many wealthy men in Palestine at this time. There were scholars of the most profound and various learnings at the greatest of universities. Yet it was not to them that the angels appeared. Their ears did not hear the "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will toward men." The greatest news that the world has ever heard was heard by simple shepherds, little men, little people.

One of these elite was not chosen to carry the babe in her womb. It was given to a simple **Mary, a poor girl of Nazareth**, to do so. None of these men were chosen to head the home in which the Christ Child would be reared. That was left to a **humble carpenter**.

**1 Co 1:27-28** *But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:*

### I. God Uses Little People

- Who killed Goliath? It was **little David** from the back side of the desert.
- Who defeated the Midianites, using 300 men? It was little Gideon
- Who led the Israelites out of bondage toward the Promised Land across the Red Sea upon dry ground?

It was a boy who was placed in an ark and placed in the Nile River by a poor, humble slave mother, Jochebed.

- Who sent Naaman to Elisha to be healed of his leprosy? Was it some fashionable friend, some delightful, educated, well-versed friend of the family? No, **a little maid** said, "Elisha can help you."
- Who gave food to feed the five thousand? **A little boy** with a lunch basket of five loaves and two fishes
- Who took the Gospel from Jerusalem and all around Asia and then to Europe, and turned the known world upside down for God? **Paul**
- Who was it who saw the resurrected Christ in His glory on that Easter morning, it was a woman once possessed with seven devils, **Mary Magdalene**.
- Who was it that was chosen as an object lesson of greatness by Jesus? Jesus took **a little child** and put the child in the midst of them and said, "Here is the greatest of all."
- When He decided to name the greatest, what did He name? A king, a businessman, a rich man, a wealthy man, a great statesman? No, He said **the servant is the greatest of all**.
- So it was in the Christmas story: Mary, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds, Zacharias. It doesn't read like a hall of fame. God uses little people.

When God shook our nation, He used "**Crazy Moody**." God used a **Billy Sunday**, who threw away his baseball glove, put away his spikes, went to the Pacific Garden Mission, stumbled in a drunken bum

God has a wonderful way of using the simple to confound the wise.

*Len G. Broughten, the pastor of the largest church in Georgia, weighed less than a hundred pounds. Once he was in a debate with a famous man. The famous man became angry, for it was obvious that he was losing the debate. He shouted, "You little runt, I'll-I ought to chew you up and swallow you." Len G. Broughten got up and said, "If you did chew me up and swallow me, you'd have more brains in your stomach than you do in your head."*

God uses little people. **He sometimes uses people without much training**. He sometimes uses people without much talent. Then He can get the glory. So in the Christmas story, God uses little people.

When our Lord came to the world He came in a manger in Bethlehem.

- The Last Supper was held in a borrowed room.
- For Pentecost the 120 met in an upper room.
- The five thousand were fed on a hillside.
- King David was found in the field.
- Gideon was found behind the winepress, hiding.

- The Son of God was buried in a borrowed sepulchre.
- Many of the epistles of Paul were written in a dungeon.
- Moses saw the burning bush on a desert.
- PILGRIM'S PROGRESS was written in jail by John Bunyan on milk bottle stoppers.
- Moody was discovered in a shoe store.

**God doesn't always go to the palaces of Egypt to find a great leader. He often goes to the bulrushes of the Nile River.**

## **II. God Uses Little Places**

God appears in humble places.

- He appeared to shepherds in the field,
- To Stephen outside the gate,
- To Jacob walking down a lonely road,
- To the children in a fiery furnace, to John on Patmos,
- To Peter on a rooftop.

No place in the Bible do we find this taught more plainly than in the story of **Bethlehem's manger.**

- In your Sunday school classroom there may be a great preacher.

Several years ago a simple country preacher resigned his church in failure and he said to his deacons, "Only one convert this year, and that was just wee Bobby Moffat, just a little boy."

The deacons said, "Pastor, we hate to see you go, but we have had a bad year. It's been a failure as far as the year is concerned: we've only had one convert. That is little Bobby Moffat who served in Africa for over 60 years."

When God chose to call Moses he used a burning bush.

On the cross, here is God, paying the price for our sin. On the cross, here is the Son of God, forsaken by the Father, and crying, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" He says, "John, take care of Mother for me."

**CONCL – Yield yourself and God can use you to do great things.**