

# **THE BEACON**

## ***Little Things***

One of the intriguing stories of the book of Judges is the death of Abimelech, He murdered his rival brothers at Shechem and ruled Israel for three years. He got his just deserts when, while seeking to expand his dominion, he was killed by a woman at the city of Thebes.

The city had just been defeated by Abimelech and his troops; the remaining citizens, men and women, gathered in the city watchtower, seeking refuge from Abimelech and his warriors. The army surrounded the tower and was positioned to burn it and destroy all its fear-stricken residents. A woman spied a millstone nearby, picked it up, dropped it from the tower, and it struck Abimelech on the head and crushed his skull.

Abimelech remained conscious long enough to call on a fellow soldier to finish him off so it would not be said, "A woman slew him" (Judg. 9:54). When Abimelech's marauding army saw their general was dead, each man departed for his own home. "Thus God," by a woman who had little prowess as a soldier, "requited the wickedness of Abimelech " (Judg. 9:56).

The same God killed a nine foot giant with a single rock from a sling wielded by a small lad whose only professional training was watching sheep. He also used a man with a stammering tongue to lead his people from bondage in Egypt, organize them into a mighty nation, and lead them to their land of promise. This God, Jehovah, warns us through His prophet that we must not "despise the day of small things" (Zech. 4:10).

The simplest of deeds that show interest and concern; the least eloquent words that express love and care; the sparsest of talent directed toward a desperate person; a smile and a handshake or a warm hug at the right moment; any of these, all of these, or a thousand other tiny deeds can effect great results when our love or service for God is behind them. No limits can be set on God, His providence, and His use of men in accomplishing His purposes on earth.

Jehovah, our God and Father, does not demand powerful and moving sermons, flamboyant and ornate displays of service, educated and magnetic personalities, or talented and important people. God needs men and women of faith, of hope, of love, and of prayer; disciples who are moved with passion to serve at every opportunity; Christians who regardless of their talent respect God's will, seek to follow it, and labor to share themselves and His will with others. Large or small, big or little, brethren -- plant and water and leave the results to God (1 Cor. 3:5-9).

**- by L. A. Stauffer**

---

## ***Preaching Fear***

One of the strange phenomena of our day is the spectacle of religion dropping the appeal to fear while other human interests have picked it up. Just look around. Everybody is preaching fear except the church.

We are being taught to fear everything from AIDS to radon, from the hole in the ozone to the cutting down of the rain forests. We see fear as a good thing - something worthwhile and productive.

We want people to fear except when it comes to religion. Then it becomes a "no, no." We are enjoined to talk exclusively about the love of God. Don't mention the wrath of God. Don't talk about hell. Don't warn the disobedient. So, we are told, don't preach the fear of God.

". . . Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear" (1 Peter 1:17). Living in fear! It's the right thing to do!

**- by John Gibson**

---

## **Too Heavy**

The following is from The Hiding Place, by Corrie ten Boom:

*And so seated next to my father in the train compartment, I suddenly asked, "Father, what is sexsin?"*

*He turned to look at me, as he always did when answering a question, but to my surprise he said nothing. At last he stood up, lifted his traveling case from the overhead rack and set it on the floor.*

*Will you carry it off the train, Corrie?" he said.*

*I stood up and tugged at it. It was crammed with the watches and spare parts he had purchased that morning.*

*"It's too heavy," I said.*

*"Yes," he said, "and it would be a pretty poor father who would ask his little girl to carry such a load. It's the same way, Corrie, with knowledge. Some knowledge is too heavy for children. When you are older and stronger, you can bear it. For now you must trust me to carry it for you."*

We are asking our children to carry loads that are way too heavy for them. They should not be forced, as children, to see and feel the world through the lens of adults. Innocence is worth protecting and worth fighting for. We need to do our part as parents to carry certain things for them until they are old enough to bear the load.

- **selected**

---

## **Someone Is Watching**

What parent is there that has not been amused to watch their toddlers try to imitate the things that they've seen? Little girls want to cook like Mom, and boys would love to work on the car like Dad. It's fun to watch.

There's a frightening side to this, too. Our kids continue to imitate us even when they get older. No longer is it little Suzy trying to wear Mom's shoes, or Johnny awkwardly wielding Dad's hammer. It soon becomes an adolescent who follows all the examples - both good and bad - that have been evidenced by the parents.

Dad, do you have a bad temper? Do you speak harshly and in an unkind manner to your wife? Do you lie, cheat, curse?

Mom, do you resent your duties as a wife and mother? Do you have trouble being submissive to your husband? Do you get angry without cause?

Surely you see our point. No doubt you've thought of all this many times before. The simple fact is this: we are teaching our children mighty lessons by means of the examples we set before them.

And, there's no area more influenced by these considerations than our children's spiritual development. Many parents have grown to regret their own negligence in serving God when they saw their children begin to imitate their own indifference and apathy. Christian parent, how's your example?

- **by Greg Gwin**