

Little Tools, Big Jobs

2 Sam 7:18-19

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Contemplating God's awesome might is mind-boggling
- B. How do you describe unlimited power? Job 11:7-9
- C. No limit to God; not restrained by matter, time, or space Jer 32:17, 27
- D. Therefore, His ways are mystifying to us Rom 11:33; Isa 55:9
- E. Uses unassuming things and people to accomplish purpose
 - 1. Many instances God took seemingly undistinguished circumstances and performed huge wonders with them
 - 2. Little tools in hands of Creator performed big jobs!
 - a. At times when a person doesn't have tool needed, they "make do" with what they have
 - b. Not enough time to mentioned everyone and everything that God used, yet we'll notice some.

DISCUSSION:

I. SOME PEOPLE AND THINGS USED BY GOD

- A. Shamgar's oxgoad Jud 3:31
 - 1. Not much known about Shamgar, but enough to show God's power in use of an oxgoad
 - 2. Oxgoad a long pointed stick used to prod cattle
 - 3. With this simple tool and God's help Shamgar killed 600 oppressive Philistines
- B. Jael's hammer and tent peg (nail) Jud 4:21
 - 1. A hammer and nail in a woman's hand saved Israel from a feared warrior and his army of iron chariots.
 - 2. God subdued Jabin king of Caanan Jud 4:23
 - 3. Jael blessed as a result of simple act Jud 5:24-27
- C. A young shepherd's sling and small stones 1Sam 17
 - 1. Goliath (giant 9' tall) challenged Israel 1Sam 17:4-11
 - 2. David accepts challenge - Israel's soldiers wouldn't.
 - a. Youngest in family - not a warrior, just a kid
 - b. Couldn't even walk with armor on! 1Sam 17:39
 - c. With sling & stone killed giant 1Sam 17:40,48-51
 - 3. Attributed his success to God's help 1Sam 17:37
- D. Gideon's 300 man army Jud 6
 - 1. Hiding in wine press to beat wheat, called by God Jud 6:11-14 don't think he can be of much use v.15
 - 2. Convinced by God, Gideon gathers 32,000 men, later reduced to 300 men, to fight the host of Midian.
 - a. The reason: Jud 7:2
 - b. The result: Overwhelming victory for God.
- E. Could go on naming all the "little" things and people God used in awesome ways.
 - 1. Abram - 75 yr old, but with faithful obedience, fathered nation.

- 2. Moses - poor speaker with low self-esteem, but Israel's law giver and deliverer.
- 3. Apostles: Tax collector, fishermen. Who would think these men would turn world upside down?
- 4. All the faithful in Heb 11

II. NONE SO SURPRISING AS THE SON OF GOD

- A. Jews expected Messiah & King to enter with pomp & fanfare.
 - 1. Manner of His birth was anything but that expected - born in a barn, laid in a feeding trough!
 - 2. Background unexpected - poor parents, carpenter's son in a town on wrong side of tracks Matt 13:53-56
 - 3. "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth" Jhn 1:45,46
 - 4. Because of this attitude, His service was rejected by fellow Jews. Matt 13:57-58
 - b. Washing disciples' feet confused them Jhn 13:8
 - c. Demonstrated & taught humility & service Mk 10:35-45
 - B. Epitome & example of servant-hood which he spoke of.
 - 1. May never fully fathom, in this life, how much humility the Creator possessed to empty Himself and become a man. Phil 2:6-8
 - 2. But the results are for our utmost benefit 2Cor 8:9
- ### III. WORLD'S VIEW OF GREATNESS: "BIGGER = BETTER"
- A. God shows that way of thinking is not necessarily His way. 1Cor 1:27-29
 - 1. He's shown this thru-out the history of man
 - 2. Taking seemingly insignificant things and people and producing spectacular results!
 - B. He desires that we learn the same lessons Matt 18:3-5
 - 1. Throwing off pride and position, we must assume childlike faith, trust and obedience - The marks of a true servant.
 - 2. Look to example of suffering servant 1Pet 2:18-24
 - a. Don't scream for rights (tho we are not doormats!)
 - b. Christians have humility that points to Master.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Knowing now what God can do with just a little, we can:
 - 1. Recognize the seriousness of sin as God sees it.
 - 2. Follow example of service and humility we see in Jesus.
 - 3. Achieve victory by God's strength in our own lives!
- B. Who knows what great things God can do with a little thing like me and you? Esther 4:13-16
- C. But, remember a person can't work for the Lord until they are in God's family, the church.

(From an outline by Zeke Flores revised by JLH)