

The Significance of the Seemingly Insignificant

"under the sun, nothing is insignificant to God." –Frank Capra

1 Corinthians 1:28

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:

As we look through the Holy Inspired Word of God we are told of many of the often called Heroes of the Bible. Men and women such as Paul, Peter, David, Abraham, Joseph, Noah, Ruth, Esther, and many more. Their actions and obedience to God is known and their names recognized throughout Christianity. Their names are attached to many significant acts throughout the Bible. But for a moment lets us look at those who may seem insignificant in that no one knows their names because God's word does not provide them or maybe their names are recorded but forgotten. Let us look at the significance of the seemingly insignificant.

Phurah and The Man with No Name & The 300

Judges 7:7

And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the *other* people go every man unto his place.

Judges 7:10-11, 13, 15

10 But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host:

11 And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that *were* in the host.

13 And when Gideon was come, behold, *there was* a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along.

15 And it was *so*, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.

Brothers and Sisters how seemingly insignificant by name but mighty in actions.

The 300 are not named but they passed the test the LORD had given and were chosen for a great battle and a great victory for the LORD. They are known by number and not by name; but their victory brought Glory to the LORD and for that they are recorded in the Holy Inspired Word of God. And that is enough.

Phurah's name probably couldn't be remembered by many, but Gideon was told that if "he feared" then go thou down with Phurah. Not much is known of him save that he was a servant of Gideon that relieved the fear of Gideon "10 But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah". Sometimes maybe we are called to be by someone's side that will do great things for comfort or encouragement. The world needs Phurah's too.

'A man with no name' Again in a very significant event in the Bible the defeat of the Midianites by Gideon and the 300 there is a man of whom no name is given. But the dream this man told and interpreted was very significant; for when Gideon heard it "he worshipped" and believed that the victory against a mighty foe was to be delivered. We can learn from the man with no name – believe the words God gives us and share them faithfully; they can move others to great action in service to the LORD.

The Man of God

1 Kings 13:1-10

1 And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

2 And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the

priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.
3And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that *are* upon it shall be poured out.
4And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him.
5The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.
6And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as *it was* before.
7And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward.
8And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place:
9For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest.
10So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Bethel.

Who this 'Man of God' was we are not told. His name goes unmentioned. But what better honor to be bestowed upon one than to be called 'a man of God' better that name than any name given to one by man upon this earth. This man of God may seem insignificant in that his name is not mentioned but consider: He delivered one of the most significant prophecies in the Old Testament. It foretells of an event that takes place 340 years after the prediction. A fact attested to by two nations. This prophesy showed the knowledge and power of God. Better to have the name of 'a man of God' than any name that could be given by human lips. Significant indeed.

BUT.....THE REST OF THE STORY

1King 13:11 -22

11Now there dwelt an old prophet in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father.
12And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah.
13And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon,
14And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he said unto him, *Art* thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I *am*.
15Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread.
16And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place:
17For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest.
18He said unto him, I *am* a prophet also as thou *art*; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. *But* he lied unto him.
19So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water.
20And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back:
21And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee,
22But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which *the LORD* did say to

thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcase shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers.

23And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, *to wit*, for the prophet whom he had brought back.

24And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase.

The Man of God was faithful in prophesying the Word of God; but he was not completely obedient to God in the seemingly insignificant details of his mission. He disobeyed God and the seemingly insignificant became significant and he was slain. We do well to remember that we must trust what God has told us over what man says. We must never waver from Gods truth and fall victim to man's lies; Remember beloved **1John 4:1** *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world;* significant indeed.

The Disciples

Act 9:19-20, 23, 24-25

19And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

20And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

23And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him:

24But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him.

25Then the disciples took him by night, and let *him* down by the wall in a basket.

These disciples of no individual acclaim but together they saved Saul who would later be named Paul; the apostle to the gentiles and establisher of the church. Even the great men need help. Sometimes our purpose may be just to hold the rope for those in need. Their names are not mentioned but the significance of their act was recorded by the Holy Spirit of God. Sometimes just holding the rope for someone is enough.

The Little Maid

2Kings 5:1-4, 9-10, 14

1Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, *but he was* a leper.

2And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

3And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord *were* with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

4And *one* went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that *is* of the land of Israel.

So Naaman believe the little maid and made journey to see the prophet the little maid spoke of.

9So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha.

10And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.

14Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

Ah by the Faith of a little captive maid. Upon her little soul rested the mercy and grace of the LORD that she would tell her captors of the healing power of her LORD. Her name may not be known but her heart was right to extend the mercy and healing power of her LORD. Through her Faith and the sharing of it a prominent Syrian family came to the

knowledge of the one true God. Share your Faith. You man never know the significance of it, but God will.

Anna

There was a man named Simeon who was told by the Holy Ghost that he should not see death till he had seen the LORDS Christ (Luke 2:26). There also was one there as well that is not as well-known and whose name does not come to mind often; is she insignificant in the great scheme of things? You be the judge of her story.

Luke 2:36-38

36And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

37And she *was* a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served *God* with fastings and prayers night and day.

38And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Anna the prophetess of great age; a widow “who departed not from the temple, but served God with fasting’s and prayers night and day”. Anna who devoted her life to serving God day and night. Her story is a short one only 4 verses, but not insignificant to God. Anna’s faithful service of those many years was not forgotten by God. For in her duty to serving God she was blessed to see the LORD Jesus the Holy one of Israel. She was to see the blessed Savior of the World. Brothers and sisters let us remember to do well in serving our LORD. While it might not be recognized of man the LORD will know and we too will see the LORD Jesus. Our service will be rewarded in due time as was Anna’s and there is certainly nothing insignificant in serving the Living God.

Nothing Insignificant to God.

Consider this my friends; how God uses the seemingly insignificant of His creation for the most significant of His creation (Mankind) to consider and learn.

Proverbs 6:6-8

6Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

7Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

8Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest.

Proverbs 30:24-28

24There be four *things which are* little upon the earth, but they *are* exceeding wise:

25The ants *are* a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;

26The conies *are but* a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;

27The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;

28The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.

Beloved of Christ the lessons we can learn from Gods creation. ‘The spider is in Kings Palaces’. Remember nothing we do is insignificant. Let us serve God in the mightiest and smallest of ways; whether our path and calling is great or small let us be faithful. Man may not notice or care; but God knows and that is enough.

JESUS SAVES

R.E.G.