

3 Little Things • Teaching Notes

So many times it's the small things, the little things that just get overlooked, or forgotten about entirely, and yet they can be some of the most important things in our entire life. Song of Solomon 2:15 says it's "the little foxes that spoil the vineyards." Little foxes represent the small things we often ignore, little things and details that go unchecked, things we refuse to deal with. I want to talk to you about 3 of these little things today; 3 Little Words actually.

SEE: It is important what we see. And it is important what we don't see. What we see can bring us great hope, or it can be a huge distraction, depending on what it is. How do you see God?" Is he a big God or a little God? Is he a powerful God, or a weak and wimpy God? It is important how we see God. A lot of the direction of your life will be determined by how we see God, or how we see your current situation.

Most of the time, when we think about seeing something, we ONLY think about what we can see with our physical eyes, but when it comes to the things of God, we must also consider our eyes of faith or our spiritual eyes. There is a story in 2 Kings Chapter 6, around verse 14, that proves this point.

God's army was there the whole time, but it wasn't an army that you could see with your physical eyes. And even today, we put way too much stock in what we can see with our physical eyes, and not nearly enough stock in what God says, and what the Word of God says.

If you have a physical eye problem, you go to an optometrist, but when you need your spiritual eyes to work better, you need to go to the Word of God. The eye doctor will fix your physical eyes, but only spending time in God's Word will strengthen your Spiritual eyes!

Hebrews 12:2 says "You fix your eyes on Jesus." I had the Lord tell me one time . . . "If you will just keep your eyes on Me while you're walking, you won't be so concerned about where you're going!" When we say that we're going to fix our eyes on Jesus, it's the same thing as saying we're going to fix our eyes on the Word of God because Jesus and the Word are one. How do you see God?

You tend to think about what you can see too. Proverbs 23:7 says that "as a man thinks in his heart, so is he." That's just a fancy way of saying that you are going to move your life in the direction of your dominant thoughts. The things that we see, the things that we think about on a regular basis, is going to be the direction that our life will ultimately go. Do you want to increase and do better from here? Well, sure you do! Then see things better than you do right now. If your thoughts of yourself are of defeat and gloom, you need to snap out of it. Do you want keep getting the same results and you've been getting so far, then just keep doing the same things that you've been doing, keep thinking about the same things that you've been thinking about. See, If you are going to surround your life with things that you can see that are against the Word of God, that just involve:

- Doing things you should never do,
- Being in places you should never be,
- Seeing things you should never see, and
- Thinking about things you should never think about,

Then you're going to end up with the results of that. That's called Consequence!

The Bible says in Philippians 4:8 "Finally, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

Do you see the difference? One way will take you up and the other way will take you down. I'm telling you, if you want to change the direction of your life, you need to make an effort to change this one little thing . . . What do you see?

Sometimes we tend to concentrate on the big ticket items, and we forget all about how these subtle things affect our lives, and those around us. If God has put something in your heart to accomplish on this earth, and you completely neglect these things, there's a high likelihood that you won't get that thing accomplished. But if we will pay attention to the details that are in the Word of God, it will change how you see God. The better we all get to know Jesus through the Word of God, the more we will change.

SAY: What you say. How you say it. Man, there is a life lesson to be learned right here! What do we say to God? What you say to God is important! What you say in general is very important! Words are powerful! Words are so important.

Matthew 12:37 "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Mark 8:27 - 29 (Message) Jesus and his disciples headed out for the villages around Caesarea Philippi. As they walked, he asked, "Who do the people say I am?" "Some say 'John the Baptizer,'" they said. "Others say 'Elijah.' Still others say 'one of the prophets.'" He then asked, "And you—what are you saying about me? Who am I?" Peter gave Him the answer: "You are the Christ, the Messiah."

Our mouths can get us in a lot of trouble! We can say some stupid stuff, and usually at just the wrong time. Before you know it, you can over commit to something. We can just agree to things we wish we hadn't. And some of these things can be a big deal . . . a life changing deal. STORY: Buying a Vacuum

James 3:3-5 Gives Us 3 Examples!

If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

Our tongue is just a little thing that controls a lot. Your words have power because God set it up that way! The Bible says in Proverbs 18:21 that even Death and Life are in the power of your tongue. It could go either way, and what you say determines which way it goes!

"Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit;" 1 Peter 3:10 says!

I'm always a little bit amazed when I hear a Christian person so quickly agree with the enemies plan. I heard somebody just the other day talking about how somebody near them was sick, and now it must

be their turn. It's inevitable, I'm gonna get sick too! I always get sick. It comes every year. If anybody's gonna get sick, it's probably gonna be me. I'm just gonna go ahead now and prepare for it, because it's coming my way, and there's nothing I can do about it. What terrible, terrible words to say about yourself! You know, you have a choice in what you say, and the Bible has clearly indicated that there is power in what you say, in your words. So, instead of saying all that junk, how about turning to the Word of God, and say "I will say of the Lord, he is my refuge, my God, my fortress, my strength, in Him will I will trust!"

How about saying "1,000 will fall at my side, and 10,000 at my right hand, but it will never come near me!" How about saying "Healing is the children's bread, and I'm His child." "By the stripes Jesus already took on His back, I am healed!" It's important what you say! You can tell a lot about where you are in life by what comes out of your mouth.

- "Oh my God, I'm probably gonna die!"
- "Nothing ever goes my way."
- "I'll never get there from here."
- "I guess I'll just be alone my whole life."
- ALL Junk!

Words are like containers, and they will contain life or death, and you get to choose what they contain.

God has all these great promises that are at work for us, but it is up to us to incorporate them, and Believe that they are true for us. I have heard it said that the promises of God are "voice activated." We constantly want good things to happen, and we want our situation to change, yet over and over we find a way to thwart those promises and try to just do it ourselves. He wants us to look to Him alone! He is a mighty God, He has mighty promises, but He has already mighty fulfilled them. Now, it is up to us to believe them and stand in faith that those Promises are in action for us. So, What do you say to God? Thank You! I appreciate You! I Love You!

And I understand that not every day of your life is a supernatural, fireworks kind of day. There are days that you might be discouraged. This is when you have to learn that you can even say things to yourself! Back in the old testament, in 1 Samuel 30:6 David got distressed, but he encouraged himself in the Lord.

You know, you have authority over yourself! You can control what you say about yourself and your situation. You are so blessed! You can just decide to lift your arm, and hey, there it goes! You can just decide to think good thoughts and there they are! Amazing how God made you. Well, you can just say to yourself that you're going to make it, you're going to succeed, that you're coming out!

Then, What do you say to or about others? What you say out of your mouth has a drastic effect on how others respond to you too. Your speech changes your surroundings!

SOW: Sow means to plant. To scatter, spread, distribute or give.

Again, What you sow is important! Sowing has two parts to it, there's the sowing part, and the reaping part. God can't Give any more of Himself, but you can give more of yourself.

The things that you sow are the things that will grow! It's only the things that you sow in life that really end up amounting to much of anything!

2 Corinthians 9:6

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Galatians 6:7

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

Galatians 6:8

For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

I'm not just talking about money here, there are plenty of things that you can sow besides money. Time, patience, kindness, compassion, etc.

Some of you just need to let go of some things you've been holding on to. Just let go and obey God! You may have known for a long time that you were supposed to give that money, or that car, or that house, or whatever it is. When are you gonna do it? What are you waiting on? This is the time to go ahead and take a step and be obedient to what God has put in your heart.

What do you sow to God? When it comes to money, are you a collector or a distributor? God is looking for distributors. Conduits. Channels. Everything God asks you to do has a purpose to propel you forward, not backwards.

What do you sow into others? Take the high road with others; that's the one one that blesses them, and ultimately you too!

All good relationships are established are built by seeing, saying, and sowing.

Ok, you married people . . . When you were dating your spouse, you men first saw her. You saw something you liked, and it got your attention. Didn't it? You could see it in your head, and you could see yourself with her. You could see yourself getting married to her someday. You could see yourself together. Then, it came time to say something, because there's no way to get to her without saying something to her. So you begin to say some things to her. You said things to her that got her attention, you might've even made some promises to her that got her attention. And then you sowed something to her, by taking her out, buying her flowers, buying her chocolate, taking her to nice places, spending time with her. You sowed things into her life, expecting and believing that there would be more to come.

We all have some decisions to make today . . . Some Adjustments to make. We get to decide to make these little changes in our lives, so we can have the bigger & better results later.

Maybe for you it's getting control of your tongue, and watching your words!

Maybe it's making changes to what you consistently see and hear - Input.

Maybe for you it's determining to sow better seeds for your future.

Doing these things will help you adjust to the challenges of life. To Rise above trouble, tests, and trials. Become Shock-Proof and Fool-Proof. You can do what God has put in your heart!