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Here's Hope  
by Rev. Jerry Rea

### Just a Little Thing

We say "It's the little things that mean a lot," and it's true. A short word to a friend during a time of hardship goes a long way. A hand when you are up against a huge load makes the load lighter. A smile when you feel alone helps you to realize that you're not alone. An unexpected card in the mail makes it exciting to do the dull thing of checking for bills in the mailbox. When your spouse holds your hand at odd times, you remember the love that made you marry them in the first place. *It is* the little things that mean a lot.

"Little" people are all over the Bible. The little boy who gave his lunch to feed thousands might be the first thing that comes to mind. We revel in the story of little David against the towering giant Goliath and brought him down. The small task of anointing the body of Jesus in the tomb turned huge, when the ladies found that Jesus was not there. It was a little maid who related to Naaman the important news that there was a prophet in Israel whose name was Elisha. Were it not for this "unimportant" servant girl, the great warrior would never have been healed. Who can forget the Christmas story? There were "shepherds abiding in the field." You know, of course, that these shepherds were most likely young boys and girls assigned this task. It was the "little" town of Bethlehem that God graced with the Savior. God chose to speak to Samuel, as a young boy in the Temple. It was a little thing that Jesus used to teach His disciples the importance of humility. It was a towel and bowl from which Jesus washed their feet and gave them an "example." The symbols of bread and juice shout the glory of Jesus' body and blood. Truly, God seems to *enjoy* using little things to give big messages. By comparison, Paul was "big" and "important" but Mary and Joseph were "small." Jesus' dad was "just a carpenter." Mary was just a young girl. These were little people in the hands of a big God.

That brings me to you. For years and years I wanted to do something big like Mother Teresa. Who would not want to go down in history as this "mother of orphans?" For me the goal and aim was to do something *big* for God. We say it this way in 2021: "I really want to "make an impact." Then, I realized that God did not want another Mother Teresa. He already had a Billy Graham. The role of Apostle Paul was already filled. What God wanted was me to simply be me. You don't have to be important in this world to be important to God. The ways of this world and the ways of God are very different, aren't they? If we are "great" in the world's eyes, we might not be great in the eyes of God. We ought to simply be tools in the hands of God, and He'll take it from there. Our goal should not be "greatness" but "service." We follow Jesus by first "denying" self (see Luke 9:23).

The clay must be pliant in the hands of the potter for a thing of beauty to emerge. The idea is not what the clay can do, but the artistry of the artist displayed in the finished work. So, are

you “moldable?” Are you willing for Him to do whatever He wants, even if it’s something small? Are you willing to be a lump of clay that simply turns loose? Someone said it this way, “Big doors swing on small hinges.” I like that! There is no limit to what God can do, and, there is no limit to what (or who) God can use to get there. No tool is ever small in the hands of the master carpenter.

I love you,  
Jerry Rea