



"LITTLE THINGS"



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Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings? (Luke 12:6). Yet the price of sparrows were two for one farthing (Matt 10:29). So we conclude that with the purchase of four sparrows, one was given free. This sparrow given extra, seemed to have no value with the vender but it must be the ONE Jesus referred to in Luke 12:6, or may we say the fifth sparrow, so lightly esteemed by man but remembered by God. At times have we not felt that we occupied the place of the fifth sparrow? But God remembered.

"Fear not little flock" said Jesus addressing his disciples (Luke 12:32), and they were indeed little in more ways than one. They left their father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters, yes and had hated their own lives also (Luke 14:26) just to follow Jesus and become the castaways of men. What rest and comfort home life might offer, what happiness there might be found among loved ones, must now be forsaken for the love of another whose inspiration is mighty and far reaching, yes to the division of home ties (Heb 4:12-13). Were not these same disciples later sent to preach the gospel to all nations (Matt 28:16-20)?

They were little in so much as they had been deprived of a literary education. In this they were not the equal of the leaders of the Jewish religion, yet after the Lord had spoken seven important parables on the kingdom of heaven, as recorded in Matt thirteen, He said unto them "Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea Lord." (Matt 13:51). I wonder if the Jewish rabbis understood? I wonder if the intelligence of today have so thoroughly mastered the unerring word? They were little in faith (Mark 4:40). They were little in courage (Matt 26:56). At times they were childish (Mar 9:33-37). They were little in that they would avoid sacrifice (Matt 16:21-25).

What is smaller than a mustard seed, which three times is discussed by inspired writers in the New Testament, the kingdom of heaven being likened unto this small seed? Service rendered to one of the Lord's little ones will be richly rewarded, while an offence to one of these will bring a rebuke from the Master (Matt 10:42 18:6,10,14). The children of II John 1, or the new born babes of I Peter 2:2 will be rewarded for the little things wherein they are found faithful (Luke 19:37).

A believer comes to the understanding of the scriptures, little by little (Isa 28:10-13). It was a little maiden who revealed the great truth of salvation in the household of Naaman (II Kings 5:2-4).

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And the lamb sacrificed for the wayfaring man in the parable of Nathan, was little (II Sam 12:3). While just a little honey made the eyes of Jonathon to sparkle (I Sam 14:29), as does the sweet meats of the Spirit enlighten the eyes of the new born babes in Christ. Despise not the small things (Zach 4:10). For it is the little foxes that spoil the vine (Song of S 2:15). Kiss the Son while his anger is kindled but a little (Ps 2:12) Yet a little while and He shall appear in glory (Heb 10:37)

What is smaller in the estimation of men than an independent mission work launched by one of the Lord's servants at the back side of the desert? The work referred to lies in the foothills of the Andes mountains on the upper Jurua river in Brazil. The missionary efforts were made in this region in 1926 when the missionary went there in answer to a call of the Lord to estimate the field in view of returning with his family.

From the very first there has been great opposition, this being one of the best fortified points of the Roman Catholic church in the Amazon valley. In recent years however there has been less persecution, for some of the most influential citizens have been converted and some others have been convinced of the truth of the gospel, these indirectly becoming its defenders. There are now more than two hundred baptized believers in these parts, which go to make up the membership of two active churches. We have lost more than fifty by death and by moving away. Five recognized leaders, popular because of their spirituality and proven ability to lead the believers in the progress of truth, have been called from these bodies. Our present membership includes the most promising group of young people known to the writer. Their activities have been inspiring from the first.

The scope of the influence of these churches is far reaching. Hundreds of miles away, sympathetic friends admire the courage of those who have come out and made a stand for Christ, renouncing the religion of their fathers. Hardly a week passes but we receive invitations from remote parts of the field, calling us to visit them and to speak to them in the terms of the gospel. In times past when it has been our good fortune to sojourn among these unlightened people, we have been amazed to see the interest manifested by them, so much that we are encouraged to extend our activities into the regions beyond, the prospects being brighter than at any other time.

The missionary has no intention of abandoning this work for it is one that the Lord began and to his knowledge the call has not yet been revoked. Our intention is for the family to remain in the States for the present and him to return and continue with the work as soon as possible. Our only ambition in life is to see the progress of this work to the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Friend as to the investment you are making with the Lord, have you figured missions in your weekly budget? If not would you not like to consider one of the Lord's little fields, occupied by one of the Lord's little servants, who is endeavoring to walk by faith and rest only upon the comforting promises of GOD? The opportunity is yours for prayer and then to act upon as the Lord may lead and bless.

Sincerely

J F Brandon

P S A letter from the mission field says that there has been thirty conversion and twenty four baptisms recently.