

One Man's Great Work 10-25-15 AM

If you are a Christian, then you understand that you are a worker for the Lord. What sort of work are you doing for Him? All of us want to have purpose to our service, and we want our work to matter. We want to accomplish great works for God. So what makes a "Great Work? Is it the value of the sacrifice? Not according to Luke 21:1-4. Is it the enormity of the accomplishment? Not according to Matthew 25:23. What makes a great work is doing the work that we are called to do, perhaps uniquely so.

In Acts 9 we are introduced to Saul of Tarsus. We know how Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus. When Saul arrived in Damascus, he was ready to listen to anyone who would teach him. We read in Acts 9:10-19 (and Acts 22:12-16) how the man who was called was Ananias. Why choose Ananias? He would speak with a vile man. His one action helped build the church.

Point of the Lesson: We are our own discouragements. We say things like "I don't do enough for the Lord", "I am a poor Bible student" or "I am a miserable teacher or friend". We want to measure great things, but we really can't comprehend what a great thing is. One thing we fail to understand is that simple acts can be great works.

*"For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward" (Mark 9:41).
I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. (1 Corinthians 3:6-8)*

We need to know that simple acts are not simple in their need. God needs hard workers, people who can do their jobs and glorify God. God needs loving husbands and devoted mothers, two of the most important works in the Kingdom. God needs honorable citizens to show restraint, honor and the dignity of Christ.

Ananias' great work was to teach one man the Gospel. His gift or ability was a willingness to talk to a vile man. Where would we be without his service?

Ananias Speaks Today: *"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16)*