



APPNOTES

Date: February 25-March 01, 2019

Series: Elijah

John 6:8-9 Great people for God don't set out to be great. They just do what God wants with the events of each day. So what's on your plate today? Teaching, mothering, auto repair, secretarial work? Live this day according to God's desires, and therein is the GREATNESS! Your social class, business status, education, bank account, or age will not matter for greatness in God's Kingdom. What matters is your commitment to living as He wants. For instance, consider what God asks of a child. One act of obedience God desires of a child is to share their things: share with playmates, siblings, anyone. Simply...share. A little boy in today's scripture did what he knew God wanted him to do—he shared. His obedience to God's desire resulted in a miracle that blessed thousands. What do you know God wants you to do today? Do it. Therein is the GREATNESS!

Luke 17:14 Miracles happen when we obey God's commands. Corrie Ten Boom is a good example. Corrie lived in the Netherlands during World War II when the Nazis rounded up Jewish people for concentration camps. Corrie was not a young, strong, difference-maker, setting out to save the world. She simply loved God and desired to please Him. This unlikely heroine hid Jewish people in her home from Gestapo searches. Eventually, she was betrayed and sent with her sister to Ravensbruck. Lice and sickness infested the dormitories. The guards refused to enter their building. Corrie did what she knew God would want her to do—she gave thanks...for those lice. And in that place, free from guard interference, she held Bible studies where women were saved and sustained. Lice or leprosy, as in today's scripture, can be miracles when we obey God—even if it's something as simple as giving thanks.

John 9:6-7 Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote, "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." Most of us are ordinary people who do small things every day: We clean, cook, work a job, volunteer at church. When the small things are done with commitment to God, they result in big things for God's glory. Kindness to special needs people results in a nationwide movement honoring their worth. Contributions to a homeless shelter produce a thriving mission in the inner city. Generosity to needy neighbors shines a light on God's character. In the "daily doing" of life according to God's desires, great things can happen. Today's scripture features a blind man, some mud, spit, and a simple command—"Wash." In his obedience to that command, the blind man and his world were able to see God. Be encouraged— your daily acts of obedience will become "Small Great Things."

Luke 5:27-28 "The Unlikelies" might be an appropriate label for Jesus' apostles, a dubious lot for turning the world upside down. Not a doctor, theologian, or company president among them. Ordinary folks. Choosing ordinary people to do extraordinary things is God's specialty. The Bible is rampant with stories of people who lacked luster, and this is also true of God's contemporary choices: an uneducated shoe salesman, Dwight L. Moody, established a Bible college sending out thousands of missionaries; and a dairy farmer, Billy Graham, gave the Gospel to over 200 million people during his lifetime. Unlikelies lean into God for strength and wisdom, so when a beautiful or incredible thing happens, God's grace is the obvious reason. God gets the glory. We *don't* have to worry about being qualified or gifted. We *do* have to depend on God for the impossible and walk closely with Him. We, too, can be—EXTRAORDINARY ORDINARY PEOPLE.

1 Timothy 1:15 Do you think your past sins disqualify you from serving God? Does your history of adultery, drunkenness, drug addiction, or incarceration keep you from living for God today? Are your regrets an unshakeable weight holding you back from shining for Jesus? Only one thing will disqualify you from doing great things for God—failing to seek His forgiveness. So deal with it: Confess those sins, for He is faithful to forgive. Then, the Apostle Paul urges us to "Forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead." But *never, ever forget this*—Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners because He loves us. Like Paul, we may consider ourselves the worst of sinners, but with Christ's forgiveness we are fully accepted, completely redeemed, and CHOSEN to take the Gospel to the world. Be amazed! God uses unlikely sinners like us to do His greatest work!

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