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Faithful in the “Little Things” - P2

“And he said to him, ‘Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities’” (Luke 19:17).

Like the king in this parable, God expects us to take the responsibilities he’s given us seriously and to manage them well, before He gives us bigger and greater things. This was the criteria for leadership in the Church—before anyone was considered for responsibilities over the Body, they were expected to have demonstrated their responsibility in the “small” things already under their care: Paul told Titus to *“appoint elders in every city as I directed you, namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. For the overseer must be above reproach as God’s steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict”* (Titus 1:5-9). These responsibilities included their spouse, children, and their own behavior.

We all began as children with the task of managing our behavior, and then after we had shown our parents we could manage it, we were given responsibility for our bedroom. Once we proved we could clean it, organize it, and make it a productive place for our immediate goals in our parents’ purposes, we were given other chores—and so on. Similarly, God entrusts us with many things to take care of and be responsible over—things we may think are unimportant, pointless, or beneath us but to God they are steps to demonstrate our commit-

ment, faithfulness, and responsibility—little things for us to master, leading to greater things, if we show ourselves worthy. Nearly everyone has at least one thing under their responsibility: managing your behavior, cleaning your room, doing your chores, doing school, starting at the bottom of a new job, ministering to the needs of your spouse, raising and disciplining your children, helping your extended family, supporting your church, etc.

Too many people neglect the “small” responsibilities right in front of them, rebelling against them while complaining, begging, or conspiring for “greater” things (jobs, ministries, etc) that will satisfy their appetite for authority and honor but without commitment or accountability. If anyone forces their way into bigger and better things before they’ve proven faithful in the small, he *“troubles his own house...[and] will inherit wind”* (Pro. 11:29a). God’s Word tells us there is no shortcut—you must *“humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you”* (Js. 4:10). *“You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you”* (1 Pt. 5:5-6).

Whatever our responsibilities now, God has given them to us. We may be bored, resentful, “needing” more, or frustrated with where we’re “stuck,” but to God these things are important and our contempt for what He has made us responsible for will undermine our growth and poison what we do have. And if we force our way into what we want, how can we expect our efforts to be blessed by God and not end in catastrophic failure? *“A man’s pride will bring him low, But a humble spirit will obtain honor”* (Pro. 29:23). Amen.

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