

# COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

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## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **Prov. 20:6:** *Many a man claims to have unfailing love, but a faithful man who can find?*
1. Many “claim” [lit. “cry, call, proclaim”] to have/be something
  2. But often the claims don’t match reality (Tit. 1:16; 1 John 1:6, 8, 10; Rev. 2:2; 3:9)
  3. NOTE: Jesus made many “claims” and they were all true (John 8:24, 28)
- B. God is looking for faithful people (“who can **FIND**?”)
- C. Many want a *BIG* ministry, but God has strange ways of testing us first to see if we are ready... in *LITTLE THINGS*!

## II. FAITHFUL IN LITTLE THINGS

- A. **Mat. 25:14-30:** <sup>20</sup>*The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'* <sup>21</sup>*"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been FAITHFUL WITH A FEW THINGS; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

<sup>22</sup>*"The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'* <sup>23</sup>*"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been FAITHFUL WITH A FEW THINGS; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

<sup>24</sup>*"Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup>So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'* <sup>26</sup>*"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup>Well then, you should have put my money on*

*deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. <sup>28</sup>"Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. <sup>30</sup>And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

1. Faithful with a few things

- a) Gk. *oligos* = "puny, small, few"
- b) They were entrusted with the master's property (not theirs!)
- c) Many so-called "little things" are extremely significant/important
  - (1) *Little foxes* (S.S. 2:15)
  - (2) *Little folly* (Eccl. 10:1)
  - (3) *Little leaven* (1 Cor. 5:6)
  - (4) *Little member* – the tongue (James 3:5)

2. PUT IN CHARGE OF *many* things

- a) Gk. *polus polos* = "much, great, many"
- b) God is looking for people that He can "put in charge" = implies authority, rule, responsibility
- c) Neh. 7:2: *I [Nehemiah] **put in charge** of Jerusalem my brother Hanani, along with Hananiah the commander of the citadel, because he was a ["faithful" – KJV] man of integrity and feared God more than most men do.*

3. God will first test us in **two areas** before He promotes us

- a) How faithful are we with *someone else's* property, ministry, etc.
- b) How faithful are we in seemingly *small matters*?

- B. **Luke 16:1-13:** <sup>10</sup>*"Whoever can be trusted with VERY LITTLE can also be trusted with MUCH, and whoever is dishonest with VERY LITTLE will also be dishonest with MUCH. <sup>11</sup>So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? <sup>13</sup>No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the*

*other, or he will be **devoted** to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."*

1. Trusted

- a) With *very little* [Gk. *elachistos* = "least, smallest"] – [Testimony of brother who was tested with extra \$20 first day on the job]
- b) With *much* [Gk. *polus polos* = "much, great, many"]

2. Dishonest ["unjust, unrighteous"]

- a) With *very little*
- b) With *much*

- C. God in His mercy uses *little things* to show us discrepancies between *who we claim to be* and *who we really are!*  
[Testimony of one who wasn't "called" to visit the sick – called to the pulpit; sadly, no longer even going to church!]

### III. EARLY CHURCH MODEL (ACTS 6:1-7):

- A. <sup>1</sup>*In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.* <sup>2</sup>*So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would **not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God** in order to wait on tables.*

<sup>3</sup>*Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this **RESPONSIBILITY** over to them* <sup>4</sup>*and will give our attention to prayer and the **ministry of the word.**"* <sup>5</sup>*This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man **full of faith** and of **the Holy Spirit**; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch [all Greek names!], a convert to Judaism.* <sup>6</sup>*They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.* <sup>7</sup>*So the **word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly,** and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.*

- B. Note the apostles' commitment to **prayer** and **the Word**

- 1. People who aren't **committed** to prayer and Bible Study won't go very far in their spiritual life!
- 2. What is our commitment?

- C. They gave responsibilities to believers with a testimony (known to be...) – what is our testimony in the church?
  - 1. This was a small matter – waiting on tables, yet they needed to be full of the Holy Spirit and have a proven track record of FAITHFULNESS!
  - 2. NOTE: How mightily God began to use Stephen & Philip in spiritual ministry afterward!
  - 3. We shouldn't entrust people with important ministries who haven't proven themselves in so-called "small things" like church/prayer/Bible Study attendance, transportation, Sunday School, etc.
  - 4. In 1 Tim. 3:1-13, Paul talks about how elders and deacons must first be tested/proved
- D. Conclusion: Lord, help us to be faithful in the little things; help us to understand that the little things are important to You!