

## One Small Act Can Make A Big Difference

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”*

This passage is preceded by the Chapter of Faith describing Old Testament giants such as Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Gideon, David and Samuel. The verse Hebrews 12:1 suggests that heaven is full of great men and women of faith cheering us on as we run the race of faith through our life.

Each one of those heroes has encouraging words for us as we continue to run the race.

Noah tells us that **One person can make a difference.**

Esther tells us that **God has a place for you.**

Joseph tells us **Don't give up on your dreams.**

Rebekah tells us **to Give generously to others.**

Have you ever heard of the Rebekah Principle?

***“I'll do what you asked me to do, then I'm going to do something more”***

We all know that there is a purpose for everything that is recorded in the Word of God.

### **We find an interesting story written in 2 Kings 5:1-3**

<sup>2KI 5:1</sup> *Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through*

him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but **he had leprosy**.

<sup>2KI 5:2</sup> Now bands from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. <sup>3</sup> She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

<sup>2KI 5:4</sup> Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. <sup>5</sup> "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. <sup>6</sup> The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

<sup>2KI 5:7</sup> As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

<sup>2KI 5:8</sup> When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." <sup>9</sup> So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. <sup>10</sup> Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

What can we learn from this little slave girl?

### **One Small Act Can Make a Big Difference**

This little girl was a slave owned by Naaman, a powerful and highly respected man. He was an outstanding general, the commander of the powerful Syrian army and a trusted companion of the King. No doubt he had a wonderful biography but there was one stain: **He was a leper**.

### **Who is this girl ?**

Consider the girl's situation:

- She was a slave, the lowest anyone could be in social standing
- She was an outsider, a Jew living in Syria
- She was young; why would a powerful leader listen to her?
- She was a female in a male-dominated culture
- She had nothing going for her, no power, no position and no possessions.
- The only thing she had was her faith – and that was enough!

She acted even though what she could do was small

She acted even though the stakes were not small. She took a huge risk!

### **She made a Big Difference in the life of Naaman**

Naaman's skin was restored that day and his faith was also changed and the Bible says he sought to worship God the rest of his life.

The Servants Girl's Words of Encouragement to all of us. She says,

**“If you want to make a big difference, be confident.**

My master listened to me because I believed in what I told him.  
We have a great God and there is nothing He can't do.  
Live like you believe it.”

**“If you want to make a big difference, be credible.**

I never would have had the courage to speak up if my service  
Had not been pleasing to my master's wife. People always pay  
More attention to how you live that to what you say.”

**“If you want to make a big difference, speak to people's needs.**

Every one needs hope and help – even powerful people like my  
Master.”

**“If you want to make a big difference, don't be afraid to do something even if it seems small.**

Only God knows how great an impact a small act can make.”