



SMALL THINGS MATTER

THE IMPACT OF
FAITHFUL SERVICE IN
SMALL THINGS

(2 KINGS 5:1-27)

2 Kings 5:1–4 (NKJV)

¹ Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, *but* a leper. ² And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. ³ Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master *were* with the prophet who *is* in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy." ⁴ And *Naaman* went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who *is* from the land of Israel."

2 Kings 5:1–4 (NKJV)

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קטן — adj. **small, young, unimportant**; — ... — **1.**
small: especially a. of children, youth = *young*, Gn 44:20

leprosy.” ⁴ (J) 2 S 9:12; 1 K 11:17; 2 K 2:23; 5:2.

“Brown, F., Driver, S. R., & Briggs, C. A. (1977). *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon Press



SMALL THINGS MATTER

THINGS THAT HAVE
BECOME "GREAT" HAVE
HAD SMALL BEGINNINGS,
AND ALL GREAT THINGS
ARE MADE UP OF
SMALLER PARTS.



SMALL THINGS MATTER

ALMOST WITHOUT
EXCEPTION THE GREATEST
CONTRIBUTION TO THE
SUCCESS OF ANY
ENDEAVOR IS DUE TO
LITTLE THINGS AND
ORDINARY PEOPLE.



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THE PRINCIPLE WORKS TWO WAYS

SMALL THINGS HAVE
GREAT POWER BOTH FOR

EVIL & GOOD —

“SIN” & “RIGHTEOUSNESS”



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FROM THE LESSER TO THE GREATER:

- **THE KINGDOM** - (Mustard seed & Leaven - Mat 13:31-33)
- **FAITH** - (Mustard seed - Mat 17:20)
- **FALSE TEACHING** - (Leaven - Mat 16:6,11,12; Gal 5:9)
- **SIN** - (Leaven - 1 Cor 5:6)

Luke 16:10–13 (NKJV)

¹⁰ He who *is* faithful in *what is* least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in *what is* least is unjust also in much.

¹¹ Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*? ¹²

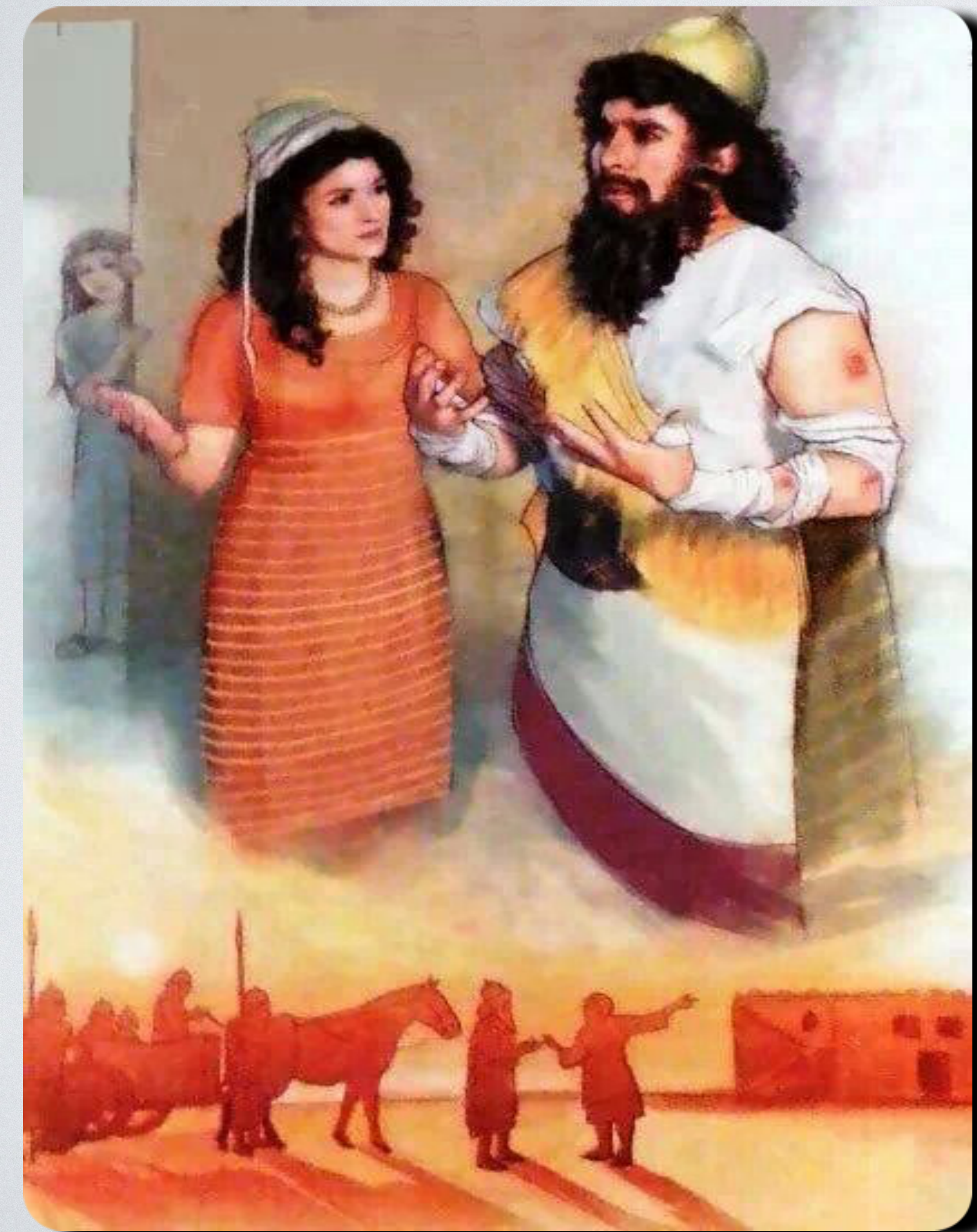
And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

SMALL THINGS MATTER



- The Israelites were guilty of “Despising the day of small things” (Zec 4:10)
- The one-talent-man did not understand the value of small things (Matthew 25:14- 30)
- Even a cup of water given in the name of a disciple will be rewarded (Matthew 10:42).

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- **Naaman** - Commander of the Syrian armies / SERVANT of the King of Syria - Ben-Hadad II (860–841 b.c.) (vs. 1)
- **A captive slave from Israel** - a young girl who served Naaman's wife (vs. 2,3)
- **King of Syria** - Ben-Hadad II - is concerned enough for his servant to seek his well being (vs. 4-6)

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- **King Joram** - son of Ahab - aware of Elisha, but could not see beyond himself, his inadequacies & insecurities (2 Kings 8:6,7; 9:24)
- **Elisha** - prophet in Israel - The man of God - a farmer, a disciple first - 3,8-10; (1 Kings 19:19; 2 Kings 2:1-15)
- **Naaman** - considered God's command beneath him - wanted to pay (vs. 9-12)

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- Naaman's servants reproved him - spoke the truth - encouraged him to be humble and do as instructed (vs. 13)
- Naaman - it wasn't until he became little & obedient could he become whole (vs. 14)

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- Naaman - it wasn't until he became little & obedient could he become whole (vs. 14)
- NAAMAN learned God's gifts cannot be purchased by 'GREAT THINGS' (15,16; Acts 8:18)
- NAAMAN understood his need for God's mercy (vs. 17-19)

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GEHAZI'S GREED, LIES & PENALTY

- Gehazi greedily pursues Naaman (vs. 20,21)
- Gehazi lies to Naaman & receives two talents of silver & two changes of clothing (vs. 22-24)
- Gehazi lies to Elisha (vs. 25)

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GEHAZI'S GREED, LIES & PENALTY

- Gehazi becomes a leper (26-27)

2 Kings 5:25–27 (NKJV)

²⁵ Now he went in and stood before his master. Elisha said to him, “Where *did you go, Gehazi?*” And he said, “Your servant did not go anywhere.” ²⁶ Then he said to him, “Did not my heart go *with you* when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? *Is it* time to receive money and to receive clothing, ... ²⁷ Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever.” And he went out from his presence leprous, *as white* as snow.

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- Every Christian has ability, just in different ways and in different degrees (1 Cor 12:14—31)
- We must use what we have, and thereby improve it (Mat 25:14-30)
- It may be small in the beginning, but a lot of great things have had small beginnings (Mat 10:42; 13:31-33; 17:20; 2 Cor. 12:9)

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■ David & Goliath (1 Sam 17)

- ▶ Goliath = BIG (9'6" +) / Bronze helmet, coat of scale armor weighing 5,000 shekels, i.e., about 125 lbs. A bronze javelin, and a long spear with an iron tip weighing over 15-pounds!
- ▶ David small in comparison, a youth / 5 stones & sling (4-7; 40-42)

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1 Samuel 17:45–47 (NKJV)

⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you.

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1 Samuel 17:45–47 (NKJV)

And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle *is* the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands.”

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- The Israelites “Despised the day of small things (Zec 4:10)
- The one-talent-man did not understand the value of small things (Mat 25:14- 30)
- Even a cup of water given in the name of a disciple will be rewarded (Mat 10:42).
- A SERVANT GIRL set in motion events resulting in NAAMAN being healed & becoming a believer in GOD (2 Kings 5:1-19).

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- “The end of a thing is better than the beginning” (Eccl 7:8)
- “bread cast upon the waters returns after many days.” (Eccl 11:1)
- “In the morning , sow your seed ...” (Eccl 11:6)
- Obey the LORD today - Do what you know - (take the NEXT step in the right direction) (2 Cor 6:2)

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QUESTIONS:

DO YOU FEEL INADEQUATE,
UNIMPORTANT, AND YOUR EFFORTS
WON'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

ARE YOU AVAILABLE? ARE YOU
WILLING?

WILL YOU USE WHAT YOU HAVE?

WHO KNOWS HOW GOD
CAN USE YOU TO HELP
SOMEONE ELSE.



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