

Dont Despise the Day of Small Endings

by Carter Conlon

Don't despise the day of small endings, trust in God's plan and remember that He sees the whole picture.

Duration: 50:22

Scripture: Zechariah 4:7, Hebrews 11:8

Topics: "Faithfulness Matters", "Godly Success"

Description

This sermon encourages individuals who feel condemned and insignificant in their Christian walk, reminding them that God sees the whole picture and values faithfulness over worldly success. It emphasizes the importance of being faithful in the small things, trusting that God will bring increase and reward according to purity of motive, trust, and obedience. The speaker uses biblical examples like Abraham, Paul, and Jesus to illustrate how God works through seemingly small endings to accomplish His purposes.

Transcript

How many live your Christian life condemned because you feel like your life doesn't measure up? Can I see your hands? That's a lot of people. How many should have raised your hand? Would you raise your hand now? Yeah, I thought so. All right, we're gonna, I'm gonna believe God with you today that that spirit of condemnation is going to be broken, absolutely shattered, destroyed, not just for a day or a week, but for the rest of your Christian life.

I'm trusting that God's going to open something to you. I have a message today called, Don't Despise the Day of Small Endings. You know, we have a tendency, we've all, I've always heard it preached, because that's the way it's written, don't despise the day of small beginnings, and we don't mind if our life begins small as long as it ends big, but what if it goes the other way? I want to talk about that.

I want to show you something in the Scriptures. Zechariah chapter 4. Now, Zechariah is two short books back from Matthew in the New Testament, just a few pages in your Bible, so if you find Matthew, just go to the left and you'll find Zechariah chapter 4. Now, Father, I thank you for the anointing of your Holy Spirit. It's only by the anointing that the yoke is broken.

You have to give us courage, Lord, and strength to face these days. Bring your church out from under condemnation, every lying voice of the devil, every condemning of our own hearts, every misunderstanding of what it means to be part of the body of Jesus Christ. I pray God give me the wisdom

to speak this.

Override my own frailty, Lord, and grip my mind and my heart, and give me the power to speak it in a way that men and women can hear it. Lord, you're going to give us strength for these days, and I thank you for it with all my heart, in Jesus' name. Don't despise the day of small endings, Zechariah chapter 4, beginning at verse 6. Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.

Who art thou, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain, and he shall bring forth a headstone, thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it. Moreover, the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house. His hands shall also finish it, and thou shalt know that the Lord of hosts has sent me unto you.

For who has despised the day of small things? For they shall rejoice and see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven. They are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro throughout the whole earth. Now, I know those are a lot of big words in the King James text, but essentially speaking, Zerubbabel was a governor.

He was sent to rebuild the temple of the Lord after a 70-year captivity in Babylon. The people had dealt very carelessly, the people of God, with the things of God. Because of it, they were taken in and became captive by the society around them.

There are incredible and obvious comparisons, perhaps, to the generation that we're living in today. And then suddenly, after this season of discipline, a decree, the king of the Medo-Persians, Darius, he wrote a decree and allowed the people of God to head back home again. The historians, biblical historians, tell us that about 50,000 accepted that first invitation, and they went back to rebuild what had been lost.

Now, it's a type, and I suppose it can be a type of church ages and generations. It's got a historical precedent. It's also a type of you and I, born as it is into this world in the image of God, filled with hopes and dreams and aspirations when we were children, only to find out we were without the grace that needs to cover us to become that which God had destined our lives to be.

And so, without Christ, we walked into ruin. And in ruin, we went into captivity. And suddenly, somewhere, whether you were reading your Bible, somebody brought you the Word of God, you realized a decree had been issued by the hand of Almighty God, allowing you to come home and rebuild your life.

Rebuild it in the image of God. There was a form of glory, and the people were called to build something or rebuild something that had a former reputation of being a place where God had awesomely glorified Himself. And we think about Solomon's temple, for example.

Scripture tells us that when Solomon built the platform and prayed, the glory of the Lord, that in the Hebrew, it's the weightiness of God, came into this temple so powerfully that the priests could not stand to minister. There was nothing they could do but shout. God had come into his temple.

And this was a place where the Lord had chosen to dwell, and the people there were given the responsibility of caring for that temple, just as you and I have been given the responsibility of caring for the New Testament temple, which is your life and mine. No longer God is dwelling in a place made with human hands. He now dwells in people.

And they had lost this testimony through carelessness. And after 70 years, they're journeying home, and you can just imagine the conversation along the way. We're going to rebuild that temple, and the glory of it is going to be great, because the promise, of course, in this chapter of Scripture is that the glory of the latter temple will be greater than the glory of the former.

So you can just imagine, as the people are heading home, and they didn't have these words from Zechariah yet, but there's got to be an inner knowledge. There has to be, because the Holy Spirit would have borne witness to something in those that belong to God. And I'm going to do something that's going to bring glory to my name in a profound way.

Just like you and I, when we came to Christ, and we read the book of Acts, and we hear of these 120 ordinary people who went in an upper room, and suddenly were empowered by the Spirit of God. And they stepped out of that upper room, filled with faith, and vision, and hope, and the beginnings of supernatural ability. The Scripture says they spoke with the Megalios of God.

That means that, and I've shared this with you many times, their mouths were speaking about something that God was going to do, because of His inner presence in their lives. And they were given this initial evidence, which was the ability to speak to other people in known languages that they had not learned about these things that God was about to do. And that's what so pricked the hearts of the 3,000 that turned to Christ that day.

So they're speaking of things which they've not yet attained, most likely, but they have already attained something which cannot come into the hearts of people, but by the Spirit of God. In other words, we're not everything we're supposed to be, but we're not what we were yesterday. We have changed, and we're going forward, as Paul says, by step by step, image to image, and glory to glory, by the Spirit of the Lord.

Now, when you read it, and I read Acts chapter 2, there must have been an explosion, there has to be an explosion of faith. Oh God, I wonder what wonderful thing you're going to do in my life. And we're starting from a little point, in a sense, in our own sight, and we read in the Scriptures, and we go to a church somewhere, and somebody tells us that God has this incredible destiny for us, and we think like natural people, and the incredible destiny is always from small to big.

My question today is, what if it goes from big to small? What if it goes from an incredible vision, and what if the vision is actually true, but it's not happening the way we think it should happen? Remember the Scripture says, my ways are not your ways, my thoughts are not your thoughts, says the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts are higher than your thoughts. And so they headed out to build this glorious testimony for Christ, like you and I did, only to become discouraged in our own eyes by how little it seems to resemble the original vision of what we thought our lives would be.

The original vision. I remember one time I needed a janitor in my church, and a fellow called me, and he said, Pastor, I was in my devotions this morning, and he said, the Lord told me that greatness awaits me. I said, wonderful.

I need a janitor, and you're just the person I think to fill this spot. I said, for the Scripture says the greatest among you will be your servant. I remember him saying to me, that's not, he said these exact words, that's not quite what I had in mind.

It never is what we have in mind. Our concept and our ways of thinking quite often don't match the ways of God. And so they headed out to build this incredible testimony, and hey guy, the prophet in chapter 2 and verse 3, let me just read it to you, it says it this way.

Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? And how do you see it now? Is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing? We start to build, we have this vision, you have it, I have it, of what greatness is, and what our life is going to amount to, and then we're five, ten, fifteen, twenty years down the road in this journey. We read the Bible, we see Daniel stopping the mouths of lions, David taking down the giant, Jonathan and his armored bearer taking a half acre of land and sending a ripple through hell, 120 coming out of the upper room and changing as it were the whole known world of their generation. People given courage and victory, and we read these things, and we see what the original temple, that's the original temple folks I'm talking about, and we see this original temple, and we've been building as it is for a long time, and we look at the foundation of what's been laid of God in our own lives, and we say could it be that my life has fallen short of what I thought it would be? Have I failed God? This temple looks nothing like what I thought it was going to look.

They came home, they came home with all this expectation, they laid the foundation, and essentially speaking the people stood back and said this was the place where the glory of God fell, but this is such a mess, look at the rubble, look at the ruin here, look at we're building with leftover pieces of former glory, and it looks nothing like the original temple, and of course they there was opposition against it, and you know if you know the history of it, the people just simply drew back in many cases and stopped building because they didn't see any hope, and that happens with Christian people coming into the house of God, and you have plans, and visions, and dreams, and ambitions, and you have a whisper in your heart that perhaps God himself spoke to you, but you look at your life after

all the work you put in, and you say this looks nothing like the book of Acts chapter 2, this looks nothing like the vision that I feel that God gave me, I don't know, maybe I've built the wrong way, maybe I've fallen short, maybe God is displeased with me, and after 10, 15, 20 years many people lose heart, there's there's a pivotal moment I believe in the lives of many Christian people where zeal stops, and complacency takes over, and despair begins to occupy the mind, and that zeal as it is to live a life that will make a difference dies, just like threatened to happen here, but it was the voices of the prophets that God raised again, Haggai and Zechariah that came to the people just the way I feel I'm doing today, and say no the problem is you don't see the way God sees, your

understanding is short, you don't understand that God hasn't lied to you, and your life is not a failure, and you're not building on the wrong foundation, I'm talking now to the honest seeker of God, the person who really came home and wanted to build a life for God's glory, but yet because it doesn't look like what you thought it was going to look like, God told you great things were in store, but immediately your mind, it was all about crowds, it was all about a marquee, it was all about a brochure wasn't it, your name was gonna be on it, you're gonna do some great thing for God, but the problem is you don't see God didn't lie to you, quite often we don't you see we don't see the whole picture, I want you to think about Joseph for a minute, I'm talking about the the husband of Mary the

stepfather of Jesus, he's given the plan of God is put into his hands, first in Matthew 121 it tells us that he was a just man and a devout man and an angel of the Lord appeared to him and said no take Mary as your wife, she is with child of the Holy Spirit and this child is going to pay the penalty as it is for the sins of the people of God of that time, the children of Israel and of course Joseph wouldn't have understood it

would be not just Israel it was the whole world, and so Joseph is given the charge of protecting this plan of God, just like you have the plan of God put into your hands, he had the plan of God put into his hands, he had the salvation of the world put into his hands, do you understand this, he's given a child, now the last time we hear of Joseph, Jesus was 12 years

of age, do you remember they took a trip up to sacrifice in Jerusalem and they lost Jesus, can you imagine that, they lost him, you're given the plan of God for the salvation of the world, you think you would have, can you imagine Joseph and Mary going back to that temple, can you imagine the discussion, I thought you were looking after the plan of God for the salvation of the world, well I thought, I mean he's your son, he's not mine, I mean it's your responsibility to look after the plan of God, my wife preached a message one time called losing Jesus and said they must have felt like the biggest idiots in the history of the world, they were given the plan of God for the salvation of the world and they lost it, and folks we can feel that way too sometimes, now Jesus was in the temple, we

know that, he was 12 years old, he was astounding the scholars, he was about his father's business, you can't lose the plan of God for your life, don't buy the lie of the devil, the plan, you might lose sight of it, but the plan of God is still going on in your life, nothing has stopped, now somewhere between the time Jesus was 12 years of age and when he was 30 and began his ministry on the earth, most believe Joseph died at that time because there's no more mention of him, and you can just imagine when Joseph died on his deathbed, what was in his heart, have I failed God?

I had it out with a plan of salvation for the world and all I have to show for my life is one child is not even my own, I want you to think this through, I want you to stop and reason it for a moment, the things that could have been in Joseph's heart not speculation, the scripture doesn't record it, but he has to be an ordinary person like you and I, say God did I fail you? Maybe, I assume that Jesus is probably in his 20s at the time that Joseph dies and he's on his deathbed, the plan of God is now over 20 years old, perhaps, and Joseph is saying, did I spend too much time in the carpenter shop with him?

Did I not read the scriptures enough? Did I not pray enough? God you put the plan of salvation for the world into my hands and nothing materialized on my watch, nothing happened, he's still making tables and chairs and here I am dying, are you displeased with me Lord? The scripture doesn't tell us why Joseph is removed, but would he have to deal with the displeasure of God? Did I fail you? You know in our time we always want to see the fulfillment, we want to see the fullness, and it has to happen before us or we lose the sense that we've been successful.

Think of the Apostle Paul for a moment, he starts preaching to crowds in the temples and arenas, it was not always the best of circumstances, but at least there were crowds, and he's in the temple every time he's in the temple he draws a crowd, he draws a crowd in the arena on more than one occasion, and there are good people trying to stop him from the journey that he's on, because he's starting from a place of seemingly much influence to a place of insignificance, and even Agabus the prophet tries to stop him on the shores of one of his journey, ties his hands, says Paul, Paul the journey you're on you're going to end up in prison, look at what you could do here, look at the numbers of people you could be speaking to, look at the magnitude of your ministry, and you're heading off on

this plan, and this plan's just gonna, what are you gonna do Paul, stand before some demon-possessed Caesar that thinks he's God, and end up in jail, and look at all the people here that need you, and all the Christians, this you see Paul this is where success is, and Paul says no, are you trying to break my heart,

are you trying, I have a heart to follow God in other words, are you trying to break it with your reasoning, are you trying to introduce me into man's reasoning, no Paul left the crowds, he left the temples, he left the accolades of men, he left the arenas, to a prison cell with just a few friends, and in that prison cell all he could do was write to some of the friends he had left behind, and he didn't despise the day that appeared to be a small ending, he started big and he

was finishing small, he wrote in Philippians 1:12 from jail, I would that you should understand brethren, that the things that happened to me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel, Paul said I wish you could understand what I understand, I don't need to know all things, but I do know him into whose hand I've committed my life and my future, I do believe that all things work together for good, to those that love God and are called according to his purpose, Paul could write this down because he was not driven by having to fulfill some ambition and see it with his own eyes, how could Paul have known that the hand of God was superimposed over his hand writing much of our New Testament text in a prison cell, God would have spoken to Paul and said Paul I have I've got an

incredible destiny for your life and wonderful things are going to be accomplished, Paul didn't know what a printing press was, Paul didn't know that leather-bound Bibles were going to be produced in every language of the world and sent all over the world to hundreds and hundreds of millions of people were going to be reading his letters, and what seemed to be a small ending in the natural was everything but in the spiritual, think of Jesus himself he was helping and feeding thousands of people, the crowds were following him, he had the accolades, when he would meet in a house there'd be so many people they'd have to let sick people down through a roof on a stretcher, and he ends up alone almost on a cross, Mary is there, his mother and John is there, and there's a few associates are far

off, the voice of the tormentor trying to convince him that his life and mission were both a failure and a disappointment to God, don't think he didn't have to endure this, remember they said he trusted in God, let him deliver him now if he will have him, for he said I am the Son of God, some mission, you can see the devil himself there saying Jesus I showed you the kingdoms of the world in an instant, if it was about ruling and reigning you could have had it, all you had to do is agree with me and my reasoning that there's another way to do this but by strict obedience to God and by trusting in God, now you trusted in God and you turned down the offer to rule the kingdoms of this world and now you're ending up alone, a failure, a great beginning seemingly finishing with a small ending,

and you and I of course know the story, and the point is simply this, that God sees the whole picture while we in our own eyes see only a little part, that's the problem with humanity, go to Hebrews chapter 11 please with me in the New Testament, are you starting to get this, we see only a little part, God is building a hundred million piece puzzle on the earth, a huge beautiful picture and every one of us have a little part in that, but you ever notice, you ever walk into somebody's house and they have a thousand piece puzzle that they put together on the dining room table and one piece is missing, it doesn't matter if there are 999 pieces in that puzzle it's the one that's missing that draws your attention right away and it has marred the whole picture and because that piece of the

puzzle is missing you can't frame that picture, you can't display it because everybody will just say well where's that piece, there's a piece missing in the puzzle, do you understand, there's a thousand people or more or less in the lower sanctuary here today, do you realize that you're an important part of what God is doing in the earth, you can't be missing in the final picture, now look at Hebrews chapter 11 verse 8, by faith Abraham when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance

obeyed and went out not knowing whether he went, by faith he sojourned in a land of promise as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles or tents with Isaac and Jacob the heirs with him of the same promise, it's a strange country for sure to the people of this

world, for he looked for a city which has foundations as builder and maker as God, through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed and was delivered of a child when she was past age because she judged him faithful who had promised, therefore sprang there even of one and him as good as dead as many as the stars of the sky and multitude in the sand which is by the seashore innumerable, these all died in faith not having received the promises but having seen them afar off and were persuaded of them and embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth, now people of this earth have to see to be successful, the glossies have to be there, the name has to be on the marquee, the crowds have to be in attendance, there has to be something tangible

and visible but these died not having received the promise, can you imagine that, think of Abraham for a moment, Lord takes him out of his tent one day and says look at the stars in the sky, he says I'm going to if you can count them these are your descendants and go to the seashore and count the grains of sand, there are going to be so many people born from you into this world and not only will there be that many people but the whole world will be blessed through you and so Abraham takes his journey from his home and he's traveling and when he comes to the end of his journey he's telling people along the way you know God I'm sure he did you know God gave me a promise, God's gonna bless me and my descendants are going to be as numerous as the stars in the sky and through my life the whole

world is going to be blessed, how would you like to travel Brooklyn or the Bronx with that declaration going down the hallway of your apartment or in your workplace, well in the beginning it was probably exciting and as time went on especially when he got to old age he's got one child, one child, I mean can you imagine getting to the end of your life's journey having started with that big a promise and you end up with one child, now he's got Ishmael that doesn't count because that's a child of human effort he's got one child by faith called Isaac but how how would the picture be marred if that child were not born, when he was holding Isaac did he have any idea he was holding the DNA of Jesus Christ the Son of God who had come from the loins of this child, did he have any idea that there

was going to be a church born, you and I actually he was holding in his arms, did he have any idea that the small finish was not as small as he thought it was going to be, in the natural we'd like to see a big finish, Abraham I'm sure in the natural would like to have died with 10,000 at least it would be a little more of a shot at fulfilling the promise in the sense that God gave him but he dies with one child, you know that helps me to understand why Esau didn't want this promise, I mean Abraham dwelt in tents not seeing the promise but embracing it Isaac dwelt in tents and then of course the next inheritor was Esau but Esau was the kind of a man that said I want the kingdom now, I want influence and power and wealth and I want to I want it now I don't I don't want to I don't want to

live in tents with this far-off promise being persuaded and embracing and confessing you see Esau was not a stranger and pilgrim to the ways of the earth he wanted his inheritance now he wanted it all now and that's still folks in the hearts of men to want it now to want to be successful now to want to be prosperous now to want everything accolades now influence and authority now that's what Esau wanted he didn't want to have it by promise he wanted it in his hand and so when it came time to trade off his birthright for a bowl of stew it was an easy thing for him because he traded it off in his heart long before I remember the man who won me to Christ he was a Royal Canadian Mounted Police Officer came to my house for I think

about two or three months every Wednesday and just kept

reaching out to me just kept reaching out and reaching out in spite of how obstinate I was and argumentative I was and how much I scorned and scoffed he just simply kept coming to my house and didn't give up his post as it was and finally after this season he won me to Christ he got me to read the Gospel of John and on the way to work one day I pulled over on the side of the road and gave my life to Jesus Christ I'd given him such a hard time folks he didn't believe it when I told him I got saved he looked right right in the eye says I don't believe you because he thought it was just another game that I was playing with him and I remember when I told him no it's for real I pulled over and I gave my life to Jesus I remember his hands start to shake open his briefcase and took out these

Billy Graham things called now that you received Christ and we immediately started into discipleship he's dead now but I remember years later talking to him and he was lamenting he said you know you're the only one I ever won to the Lord and he was sad about it you know number one you know I made me feel like a sort of lunch bag letdown in the kingdom of God and and secondly I can just see when he appeared before the the throne of God and saying Lord I'm just so sorry I wish I could have done more he was a faithful man he stayed in the same church from the time he was saved till the time he died he served there faithfully and I can see him but sit standing before the throne of God saying Lord I had such plans and dreams and ambitions and I I had so wished my life could have done more but

you see I only led one guy to you and the Lord says no no it's much bigger than that you don't understand something you see the man you led to me led a few others and a few others led a few others and a few others led a few others and a few others led a few others it goes like this folks you lead somebody to Christ and they lead to and though that person leads to and those two lead for those four lead 16 those 16 lead 32 and when you get to the throne of God none of that would have happened had you not led that one it's it's the same principle of ending up alone in the prison or dying alone on the cross or finishing with one child we have the impression that our whole life it has to be about now but the Lord says no it's not just about now everybody that you've led to Christ all these

ones that come after all your children your grandchildren your great grandchildren your great-great-grandchildren and you and I they're a part of the reward for every person that comes to Christ through everyone that we want to Christ when you get there it's it's one part of a huge picture those who win in the kingdom of God they finish the race not the way they might once have thought they should but know inside that we faithfully finished what God gave us to do there's a day coming of reward does it there's a judgment seat that not the ungodly this is not the judgment of the ungodly but the judgment of those who are believers in Christ you and I will be there one day and I don't know how many are going to be there I'm guessing it's in the hundreds of millions and time is no more so it

doesn't matter nobody has to go to bed nobody gets hungry we're all in the presence of God and names are going to be called and everything we've done will be judged on the scale of truth and be rewarded accordingly the Bible says some will be saved yet their works will burn as by fire but they themselves will be saved Jesus seemed to indicate in the Gospels at this time many who are last are going to be first and many who are first are going to be last he judges righteously it's it's not by volume it's not by numbers it's not by sight but it's by purity motive by trust and obedience the fact that we did what we were called to do on this earth folks oh what a shock that's going to be I've got a secret that God's spoken into my heart it's it's a it's it brings me joy because it makes me

know that God is just he's true he's holy he's right he does things in righteousness and in truth if we were in a convention today and rewards were being given out the rank-and-file of the church would all be sitting there and and most would feel like I'm just a body that's attended here to occupy a seat and all the guys with the fancy suits and all the ones with the big churches are all going to be called first and they're all going to be given rewards five cities four cities ten cities now folks I don't do what I do for reward if God chooses to do that then that's fine with me that's alright but I honestly the thought doesn't appeal to me I have all my hands full just pastoring this church I can't even fathom governing ten cities I guess the Lord will have to give some supernatural

ability if we're ever going to do stuff like that now folks listen to me suddenly names start to be called in heaven and the angels are going to be rejoiced and the created beings will most likely be there seraphims the cherubs all of these things will be there and then suddenly the moment heaven is waiting for names are going to be called and all the big players have clamored and taken the best seats I have no doubt about that and suddenly the first name is called Mary Johnson from Times Square Church stand please and everybody's going who in the world who's Mary Johnson Times Square Church who is that and then all of a sudden Mary stands Mary you worked in the nursery Mary you were given the care of a few children and you took it on with all your heart and you poured everything you had

into these little ones and through you they knew they were loved and they knew they were cared about and you prayed and you didn't let them go and you believe God and you fought for them in your spirit and you prepared even though they were two three and four years old you sowed something of life in these children you've been faithful in a few things now I'll make you rule over many things enter into the joy of the Lord and all the angels start shouting all the cherubim start shouting in heaven and there's a stunned silence and now the second name and this is going to go on for a million years but it doesn't matter because there's no time there anymore the second name Keyshawn Jones everybody's looking who in the world is Keyshawn Jones you were an usher at Times Square Church you didn't

even get to come into the sanctuary you worked in the annex every Sunday and Tuesday but you did what you did faithfully you stretched out your hand you greeted every visitor you've made every sinner who came into the house of God feel special as they are in the sight of God you turn nobody away you never never made any person who came into the house of God feel like they didn't belong there you sowed good seed in many lives you've been faithful in a few things behold I'll make you ruler over many things enter thou into the joy of the Lord all heaven is silent again now the guys with the big suits are getting really nervous if you can sweat in heaven they're already sweating ties are starting to come off callers are beginning to lose jackets are beginning to get unbuttoned people are

starting to get out of the front seats and try to find a backseat Esmerelda Smith who in the world is Esmerelda Smith she's a 91 year old senior that comes out every week and prays and believes God Esmerelda came through hell had to endure racism had to do it endure unspeakable slights and insults through her life but made a choice when she came to Christ to forgive and became a person of tenderness and love and began to pray for reconciliation in the church and in all of God's people everywhere she stood for what was right when everyone else was standing for what was wrong she was an encouragement she was a hugger she was a voice for what is right enter thou into the joy of thy Lord Zechariah 4 7 he says who art thou great mountain before Zerubbabel thou shall become a plain and he shall

bring forth the headstone with shouting scrying grace grace unto it who is that great mountain that stands and says in my life and this temple is going to amount to nothing no the Lord is going to finish the work that he is destined to do within me it doesn't have to be great in my sight but one day I'm going to stand before the throne of God and there's only one thing that's going to be in my mouth grace Oh God grace God your favor God your goodness God your mercy God your comfort God your power Oh God grace grace and so who has despised the day of small endings whether you have only one child to nurture a Sunday school teacher one time had a boy at his class who was a prankster he was virtually illiterate and he was always playing jokes and he was kind of a foolish young man but the

Sunday school teacher got a burden in his heart for him and went down to the shoe shop where he worked brought him outside and sat down to talk to him and so the seed of life in this young man this young man turned his heart to Christ his name was Dwight Moody and through his life people all over the world continents were changed churches were changed revival came through this one young man that a Sunday school teacher won to Christ maybe you only have one child to nurture but don't forget it's not over when you finish it goes on maybe you're the only one who stands in school perhaps there's very few that are standing for what is right and you're a college student here today you're a high school student you work in the marketplace and you're the only one who stands just like Jesus Christ

was the only one seemingly left on Calvary maybe you only have a few friends to write to maybe your day and time of traveling as a missionary is over but you still have a hand and you still have a pen you still have the Spirit of God and I promise you everything you write to somebody will long outlive you just like Paul's letters outlived him I had a grandfather who was least I was told he was a judge he died when I was three and he used to grieve me that this man obviously had a lot of advice for a lot of people in his courtroom or whatever he did but he never left me anything and even though he wasn't a safe man I would probably still read it today because it was my grandfather no card no no no advice for life I was three years in this world did I not matter to him why wouldn't he have

left something for me used to really bother me when I was especially when I was a young Christian and maybe that's all you can do but it will outlive you and if God calls you to do it just do it and be faithful to it a great will be your reward you know the beauty of this entire thing is that I don't know what it is that you do I pastor this church supposedly about 8,000 or so people but when we get to the throne of God we're on level ground my friend because I'm judged by faithfulness just like you are it's not on volume it's not on content it's not on how much of a public figure I was it was was I honest was I a man of integrity did I really care about you and what I was given to do and I will be judged on the same scale that you will be in what you're given to do and for me that makes

Christ beautiful it just levels the playing field and that means there are no big people there are no small people in the kingdom of God we we all have a piece in this little in this great picture that God and my piece is no bigger than yours and I have found freedom in this understanding freedom from all the pressure freedom from everything but just to love you and to see God become God in you and to see you fulfill the calling of God on your life and even if your part looks small and your temple insignificant I want to remind you that it was this temple in Zechariah that they were rebuilding that Jesus Christ the man walked into this was the temple and even if my temple and yours look small and insignificant you are the temple that Jesus chose to walk into he's already in you if you're

a believer and he's already walking through you on the earth and there's great freedom in just finishing what God gave us to do just finish it with all your heart finish it well and keep before you the understanding

that greatness does not mean largeness greatness is obedience greatness is purity greatness is sowing a seed in a field and dying and maybe long after your death suddenly that tree sprouts I told Pastor William we were talking recently I said you know with today's technology every message we preach will outlive us by a hundred years should the Lord tarry.

Pastor William may be long in heaven he may be on a cloud somewhere floating through the galaxy and there'll be suddenly this this following of William Carroll has erupted all over America or part of the world he won't even know about it because we're sowing into the future we're delivered from having to see with our natural eye things now that convince us that we are a success in the sight of God and there is an incredible freedom in this folks incredible I don't want you to be missing what a tragedy that that big puzzle is finished that big picture and you're missing you you what you were given to do you gave up you quit you thought your life wasn't worthwhile you thought your temple was so mediocre that God didn't want you you fell for the lie I want to give an altar call this morning

for every person who fits in that category and we're going to just pray together and we're going to just believe that hell is going to be destroyed and condemnation is going to die for every person you just have a one child to nurture a few friends to write to or all you need is the power to stand in your school in your workplace but the grace to rebuild and to trust that God is going to be glorified through your life if this is you today I want you just to stand as we all stand together and just make your way down here we're going to pray together we're going to worship for a few moments and then we're going to pray don't be ashamed to slip out of your seat let's all stand together in the balcony go to either exit in the annex and in Roxbury please if you just stand up between the

screens thank God for deliverance thank God for getting rid of the voice of the condemner thank God I don't have to be any more than God's called me to be glory to God just make your way down please and while we worship I want to give you a word those that have come to the altar today there in the song of Solomon which I've always believed is a type of Christ in his church the the bride said to the bridegroom I don't look at me I I feel unlovely feel like I've not done what I was called to do and I've been a failure and but the bridegroom said to this bride he said no it's not the way you see it said you've stolen my heart the moment you just turn to look at me said you didn't even have a chance to fully face me when I saw one of your eyes actually that's what he says one of your eyes

turn my heart the moment you turn towards me and the bride says I'm my beloved's and his desire is towards me and then he says to her come let us go forth into the field let us lodge in the villages let us get up early to the vineyards and what he's saying to her is there's so much that I want to do with you you may not fully understand it all but if you'll just get up and come with me let us walk together and just be content to be with me be content to do what I choose to do with you and through you and don't let anything stop you praise God there's such freedom in knowing that you're a part of what God is doing that cannot be replaced you cannot be replaced by anybody else in this world you're a very unique part of this beautiful picture that Jesus is painting and so just get up today

it's all I'm asking it's all the Lord is asking just get up and begin to walk with him and shake off the condemnation shake off all of this stuff that comes from your own heart and from the devil himself you are an invaluable part of the body of Christ in this earth and what God is doing Lord Jesus Christ I ask you you say that where your spirit is that you will open prisons and set free those that have been captivated God you're bringing an understanding of some things into your church in this last hour in which we're living and you're letting your people go from all captivity and all bondage all wrong thinking about the kingdom of

God that we may serve you even in our wilderness wherever it is that we live we realize Lord that our lives are not insignificant not one of us are

insignificant to the kingdom of God all we can ask is Jesus be glorified in us not the way we see but the way you see and help us just to be faithful in what you've given us to do it doesn't have to be big in our own sight but Lord you're able to take just a small seed and you can grow a great tree from it give us an understanding of these things and help us to do our part faithfully and help us to give glory to you in doing it and deliver us from the ways of the thinking of this world graft us into those who by faith saw it even though they didn't receive it in their lifetime and embraced it and that seeing and that embracing caused them to confess they were strangers to the ways of this world Oh Jesus we have nothing else to ask but that you glorify your name through us as your people

glorify your name through us in New York City and wherever else we might be from this morning Oh God Almighty deliver your people out of all condemnation let the prayer meetings begin to abound in the house of God Jesus glorify your name father we thank you Lord thank you God that if all we do is win one person it's worthwhile one child Lord whatever you give us to do we want to do it with all our might and all our heart knowing that you're pleased with us Lord you're pleased with your people father deliver us from all the corporate thinking of this world has gotten into the church of Jesus Christ bring us back to spiritual reality and father we thank you for this Oh God thank you Lord I pray that people are here this morning begin to understand what a day is coming what a day when the

last will be first what a day Oh God when you weigh everything by truth and by integrity and honesty and obedience Oh Jesus thank you thank you God I pray you give every single mother here strength to raise their children give father strength to be godly leaders of their family Oh God give the young people strength to stand in the schoolyard my God my God my God help us not to see anything is too small or insignificant in your kingdom for your eye looks and beholds it all and everything is important to you Lord every child of God is important to you every person in this city in our world is important help us Lord Jesus to recognize it help us to obey the voice of the Holy Spirit as we walk through our day dropping the seeds of eternal life into the ears and hearts and people everywhere

God deliver us from having to see with our eyes God help us to just understand and know in our hearts that you will bring the increase and we thank you for it with everything in us in Jesus mighty and holy name hallelujah hallelujah glory to God now I want to do something before we go the young lady you never let anything turn you away from where God's calling you he's got something very special for you when your name is called in heaven you may not have been known on earth you're probably in a better position than those who are known but I want to I want to just give a practice of what it sounds like when your name is called not Billy Graham not somebody your name John Smith or whatever your name is when your name is called this is this is what it's going to sound like in heaven when your name is

called on the count of three I want you to do that I want you all to be the angels and the seraphims today okay on the count of three one two three

Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/fqn4-R-tEpQ.mp4>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/carter-conlon/dont-despise-the-day-of-small-endings-2/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net