



bits from bob....

Is the Task Too Great or Are We Too Small?

Reflections on our Big God

May 11, 2020

Scott Peck wrote, "Life is difficult." Life confronts us with difficult situations. History reminds us of human struggles; our own experience reflects the struggle. Life is filled with both challenges and opportunities. What will we do with them? Is the task before us too big? Or are we too small?

What does the Bible say? When the spies returned from their survey of the Promised Land, was the task too great or was their thinking too small? When Peter walked on the water and then sank, was the task too big or was Peter's faith too small? When the apostles attempted to cure an epileptic boy, was the task too large or was their faith too little? I am not speaking of physical stature, but spiritual. Every life must be measured by "God's spiritual yardstick." Every person, every church should back up to the door frame periodically, mark the level of spiritual stature, and make the comparison (Eph. 4:12-13). Otherwise, we remain children (4:14).

God's assurances throughout Scripture tell us that there is no task too big for the people of God. These are not just words of encouragement and motivation. They are God's truth! God's ability and power are unsurpassed (Eph. 3:18-21). There is none greater! Faith can overcome the world. They that are with us are more than they that are with the enemy (1 John 5:4; 4:4). If we truly believe, we should be filled with courage, optimism, and joy. There is no place for fear, dismay, and anxiety. God is on our side!

But someone may object, "The task is large!" Agreed! We must not minimize the challenges before us. We cannot afford to hide our heads in the sand and ignore the problems. Sooner or later difficulties must be dealt with. But let us also emphasize the solution. There is a solution! With God, all things are possible! We serve a big God.

The task God has given the church is doable. God's eternal purpose is certain – bringing everything under the umbrella of Jesus' Lordship (Eph. 1:9-11). Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). The church is called to the same task. Two problems arise. Not only are we small in our own eyes, we are distracted. We fail to choose that which is best (Phil. 1:10-11). We fill our lives with good things that have little to do with God's purpose for his church in this world.

Frankly, it gets my dander up when someone mentions "insurmountable obstacles." A number of years ago I saw a book titled *Getting a Church Started in the Face of Insurmountable Odds with Limited Resources in Unlikely Circumstances*. Testimony to the fact that at least one person believes it can be done. Where is faith? Where is the vitality and vibrancy of a belief that drives us to confident action? Do we believe strongly enough to act? Faith demands bold action because of a great God!