

Have you ever thought something was too small to matter? Maybe it was taking a shortcut at work because, “Who’s going to notice anyway?” Or skipping a responsibility at home because, “It’s not that big a deal.” Or telling a “white lie” to avoid awkwardness. In some way or another, we’ve all made that mistake. But then we come to this passage in Luke, and Jesus says something that cuts through and exposes our folly:

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.”

Jesus is saying the little things do matter—more than we might realize. How we handle the small things tells the truth about who we are. If we’re faithful in the unseen places, we can be trusted in the bigger ones. But if we’re cutting corners when no one is watching, it doesn’t magically get better when the stakes rise. It often gets worse.

Now, I don’t think Jesus is trying to lay a guilt trip on us. He’s not nitpicking like a strict schoolteacher waiting to catch us messing up. He’s inviting us into a life of integrity—where who we are in private matches who we say we are in public. A life where

trustworthiness in small things prepares us for the deeper, richer things God wants to give us.

This reminds me of a conversation I overheard as a teenager, back when I worked as a cart-shepherd at Home Depot. We were all in training, and let's just say there were noticeably different attitudes about work. Some of us helped customers; others tried their best to avoid them. One day, a fellow attendant watched two of us organizing and sweeping an aisle and said, "Why do you guys work so hard? What kind of fool breaks his back for 6 bucks an hour?"

I didn't know what to say. But the other guy responded, "I'm doing the little things to prepare to do the big things." In other words, by being a responsible lot attendant, I'm preparing to be a responsible manager. That young man quickly advanced to cashier—not a common position for males at the time—and before long, he was a front end manager. Not long after, he moved even farther up the ranks. And I don't know if he had faith, but he clearly understood something Jesus was talking about.

Jesus continues: "And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?"

That's a humbling question. Whether you're rich or poor, are you using what you have in a way that honours God? Are your resources contributing not only to your comfort and security—soothing your fears of never having enough—but also to the building up of others?

If we have not only dollars but also *sense*, we will hear God asking us: “Can I trust you to make something of what I’ve given you?” We will know that we’ve been *entrusted* with wealth—not simply to invest in stocks for our own gain, but to invest in the enrichment of the world.

“Can I trust you to make something of what I’ve given you?” May we remember that question. It contains the seed of our calling in Christ: to use our time, talents, and treasures to honour God. To give back what we’ve been handed, in our own unique way. In this way, it’s not how much we receive but how much we transform it. We are entrusted with gifts to shape for Christ’s purposes. What will we build? Who will we help to heal? Who will we inspire to know our Lord personally? Our souls are written in the choices we make.

As Christians, we are stewards, not owners. That knowledge inspires us to generosity, which is God’s middle name. If you’re faithful with what doesn’t

belong to you—a company car, a borrowed book, a shared space—that reveals something essential: You care.

Then Jesus says: “No slave can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and wealth.” Notice: Jesus doesn’t say you can’t *have* money and love God. Money isn’t the issue. He says *you cannot serve both*.

If your primary goal is to make money, how can you begin to “love God with all your heart”? You can’t build your life around acquiring wealth and claim to follow God fully. One will always win out.

So Jesus is asking us to examine our hearts. What do you really serve? What drives your decisions? Are you letting financial gain shape your priorities?

Let’s be honest: it’s not easy. Not because money is all that attractive in itself, but because we live in an uncertain world—and money gives us the illusion of security. It buoys us up in the midst of our fears. But Jesus invites us into a different kind of life. A life where small acts of faithfulness add up to something far greater. A life where we serve one Master—the One who gave everything for us—and who rewards us daily with the gift of His presence.

In this way, we will not only “inherit the Kingdom” when we die, but we will help contribute to it as we live—doing our little part, adding to the Lord’s treasury that never fades.

And so, let us be resolved to remember: *the little things matter*. And may we live in light of that awareness—now, and to the end of our days. Amen.