

# The Little People

God created all men. Not just the rich and famous, but all men. I'm so glad He didn't leave out the little people—mainly, because I'm one of them.

It's worth noting that in all His dealings with mankind, He always had time for the little people. The insignificant and unknown received His attention just like those who were notable. He makes it emphatically known that He is the God of all people.

In the Old Testament Scriptures, there are constant reminders that God plays no favorites and makes no special provisions for those who are noteworthy. For instance, in His list of the posterity of Judah, there is the mention of a man named Jabez. Nothing more is known of him, but God took notice and caused his works to be declaimed to all of us. It is said of him that he "...called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh, that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me." What a simple, but beautiful prayer. By a great man? I don't know. Who is he? Just Jabez. That's all I know. But God knows. From this simple mention we learn that even the most insignificant can have the notice and approval from God.

There are numerous mentions of the simple folk in the Gospels. It has always impressed me that Jesus, when it came time to declare Himself, did not go to the Sanhedrin to select His fellow laborers; He went to the simple folk. His Apostles were not men of renown or men of higher educational circles. He chose some fishermen. He chose a publican.

And when it came to revealing Himself as the Messiah, He didn't go to the hierarchy for that declaration, He went to the simple folk. It is said of Him that "the common people heard Him gladly" (Mark 12:37). He, in fact, warned the people about the "leaven of the Pharisees" (Matt. 16:6), as well as the influences of the Scribes, men of influence in the community.

When He saw the people wandering on the plain before He fed the 5,000, He was "...moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd" (Mark 6:34). And when He looked out across the Kidron brook and saw His city, given over to sin and ungodliness, He said, in a fit of compassionate concern, "Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem...how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (Matt. 22:37).

Jesus' care for and love of the simple people is evident everywhere in His personal ministry. His trek through the cities and towns is punctuated with mentions of people on whom He had compassion and for whom He felt sincere care. Zaccheus was not only a man little of stature, but little in the eyes of the people—he was a Publican, one who made a living by farming taxes, an occupation despised by his fellows. And yet Jesus called him out of the crowd and gave him special consideration (Luke 19:1-7). His care for people like Martha and Mary Magdalene and Lazarus and literally dozens of others makes us know for a certainty that He not only notices, but genuinely cares for the simple folk—folks like most of us.

When the Hebrew writer lists the men in God's hall of faith (Hebrews 11), he doesn't leave out the unknown soldier. At the end of that list, having made known the names and the faith of the ancient heroes, he turns to the nameless people who were just as faithful, just as worthy of God's notice. He calls them "women" and "others" and "they," never once giving a name or locations, and, in the end, he says, "these all" when he refers to the faithful.

Paul mentions people who are never identified at the end of several of his epistles—men like Tychicus, Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus and several others, men about whom we know little or nothing, but men known to God and whom he considered important to the work he was doing.

And John, in his epistles just speaks of Demetrius, "the lady and her children," "the children of thy elect sister," or "little children," designations of love for people nobody ever heard of.

Most of us are the little people. We're not quoted on the evening news, nor is there a street named in our honor. We don't command any special respect or bring any special accolades from the public. But we're important to God. Didn't John say in that famous passage (John 3:16) that "...whosoever believeth in him might be saved."

Christ died for all of us—yes, for even me. There are no big people and little people in the kingdom of God, just a numerous host of forgiven sinners. Let us rejoice and be glad.

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