

LITTLE THINGS OF CHRISTMAS

Micah 5:2

In 1978 I went to the small state of Vermont—2nd smallest state in the U.S. (population wise). [Wyoming has the smallest population.]

God lead us to the rural town of Barton to pioneer a new church—The Barton Baptist Church. Over the next five years God enabled us to build a new church facility on four acres on land and reach a high attendance of over 125. At that time Barton’s population was only about 900.

While Barton is comparatively a small city, there are many other cities in the United States that are much smaller:

- Impact, Texas, with a population of 25, claims to be the smallest township in Texas.
- Grenville, New Mexico has 25 registered.
- Centerville, Maine, owns the distinction of being the smallest town with only 20 citizens.

We do not know how many people lived in the city of Bethlehem at the time of Christ’s birth. But God said it was...

I. A little CITY—*“Bethlehem Ephratah... little among the thousands of Judah.”*

- A. God uses LITTLE THINGS—*“God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty”* (1 Cor. 1:27).
- B. God is the God of the commonplace. He is the God of the humble. He is the God of the little things.
 1. Though little in the eyes of men, Bethlehem had a BIG role to play in the plan of God. God did not pick some major metropolis like Rome or Jerusalem for Christ’s birth.
 2. Bethlehem was the LEAST among the cities of Judah (Mt. 2:5-6). Jesus was what we would call “a small town boy.”

➡This little city was located in...

II. A little COUNTRY.

- A. Although Judah was a small region, the great city of Jerusalem was in its territory. Jerusalem would become *“the city of the great king”* (Ps. 48:2).
- B. Think of the tremendous influence this little country has in the world today!

➡In this little city in a little country was...

III. A little CRADLE.

- He used a manger—not a palace. He used swaddling clothes (narrow strips of cloth like bandages)—not satin linens.

A. Fitting for *“the Bread of life,”* born in “the house of bread,” and be laid in a **manger**—a feeding trough, for all to come and partake.

B. Little things make up big things.

➡ A little city... in a little country... with a little cradle holding a...

IV. A little CHILD Who would become the Savior of the world!

- We sing, *“O Little Town of Bethlehem.”* It reminds us that God can do big things in little places... with little things... and little people!

Edward Kimball shoe salesman who taught Sunday School in Chicago. He lead a teenager in his class to Christ named D.L. Moody who became one of America’s greatest evangelists.

1. At one of D.L. Moody’s meetings in Chicago, J. Wilbur Chapman received assurance of eternal life. Chapman became an evangelist.
2. One of Chapman’s assistants was a retired baseball player named Billy Sunday.
3. Billy Sunday preached a revival in Charlotte, N.C. in 1924. Out of this revival came the Charlotte Businessmen’s Club (prayer group).
4. In 1934 the Charlotte Businessmen’s Club invited Mordecai Ham to conduct a citywide crusade in Charlotte. In that crusade Billy Graham was converted.
5. Through the crusades of Billy Graham countless lives have been changed.

All because God used one little shoe salesman who **THOUGHT HE HAD BOTCHED THE JOB!**

SUMMATION: A little CITY where most amazing birth took place... A little COUNTRY where Jerusalem would be the capital of the world... A little CRADLE that would be the bed of a little CHILD... who would change the world.

That is how God works. In unassuming ways... through common, ordinary people... God does His work and carries out His plan.

Vance Havner wisely said, "So many of us are not big enough to become little enough to be used of God." God will never use a PROUD person.

Rick Warren said, "There will always be more people wanting to do ‘great’ things for God than there are people willing to do the little things. The race to be a leader is crowded, but the field is wide open for those willing to be servants."

Are you making the mistake of bypassing "little" opportunities, because you’re looking for some "big" responsibility to fall into your lap?

- *“For who hath despised the day of small things”* (Zech. 4:10).