

Becoming Small to Become Big

Philippians 2:5-11

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A Story About A Warship

- The warship was heading through fog one night
- A distant light but faint, appeared directly in their view, right in their path
- As the light got brighter, the captain of the warship walked to the helm to assess the situation



About the same time, a voice came over the radio of the ship and said, “Calling the vessel travelling at 22 Knots heading this way, change your course 30 degrees immediately.”



- The Captain got on the radio and countered, “this is the captain of the vessel you’re talking about, you adjust your course 30 degrees!”
- “Negative, the radio answered, you adjust!”
- The warship captain replied, “I am an admiral in the U.S. Navy, to whom am I speaking?”
- The voice on the radio said, “I am a junior in the U.S. Coast Guard!”
- The Captain replied, “Then I suggest you adjust your course!”

- The Captain said, “we are a U.S. Navy Warship, you adjust!”
- The Officer replied, “we are a Light House!”



What's the Point?

***SOME THINGS ARE
BIGGER AND
MORE
IMPORTANT THAN
WE ARE!***

Some Things In Life Are Bigger And More Important Than Us!

- That doesn't mean we will always know what they are
- We can **think** that we are bigger or more important than anything else and whatever is in the way of what we want should get out of the way and “adjust to us”
- The point is, like the lighthouse, *some things in life are not going to move, and we are the smaller ship that must adjust our course if we are going to make it*
- *If we can't see that reality we are headed for SHIPWRECK*

- For example, whether we believe it or not gravity exist and it's bigger than we are, it *transcends us*
- Like the lighthouse, it invites us to adjust our course to its reality
- If we do we fit in to its reality and do well, we can even use it to our advantage
- Engineers study it, and find ways to go with it, designing planes to work within the laws of physics
- But if men who fly planes ignore the reality of gravity, planes go down and lives are lost

The Point

- To live and flourish we must bow to the things that are larger than us
- This makes sense, until we add our character and our personalities to this idea, because ***who we believe we are may determine how we navigate the world***
- In Psychiatry, some medical questionnaires will have a question that is very important to how we decide to function in life

Are You God Or Not?

- Everyone here should answer correctly and if you don't, see someone immediately in Health Care
- Most people would say “of course I'm not,” but when following us around, we seem to act differently

We live as if we are the center of the universe

Everything and everyone exist for our purposes

We spend our time building our own little kingdom, at home, at church, or engaging in habitual behaviors for our own interest

Everything revolves around us and our Worship shouldn't move!

I'm Describing Self-Centeredness

- The paradox is, people who are self-centered crave the admiration that their character doesn't earn
- People aren't admired if they are selfish but self-less (Husbands, Wives, Children, Leaders)
- Jesus' personality was the opposite

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” Philippians 2:5

Philippians 2:3-4

*“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory;
but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other
better than themselves.*

*Look not every man on his own things, but every
man also on the things of others.”*

Jesus Transcended Self-Centeredness

This is the Person Who Realizes

1. There are things in life much bigger than me and my agenda
2. My existence in life is not just about me and my self-interest but other things in life larger than me
3. Jesus said, “*My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.*” John 4:34



- Unlike the Admiral of the ship, to live for bigger things we have to be aware that bigger things exist
- When you know that bigger exist, you aren't driven by your *passion for pleasure and self-gratification*
- In order to achieve you have to get past the notion in life of, “ I do what makes me feel good!”

Hebrews 11:24-26

- In order to achieve in life, you have to get past the question, “What makes me feel good?”
- “*By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer the afflictions with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.*”

How Do We Learn To Focus On The Big Things Out There?

#1 The Molding (Guiding) of our parents

- “Train up a child in the way he should go. And when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6 (*a directive to parents*)
- Training your child to discipline themselves may be difficult for the child but the parents know that the rewards are endless (D/C the T.V., Smart phone, Other social media)

There are lighthouses out there like Math, English, Work Ethic, Speaking

(We hit the lighthouse and shipwreck our lives)



#2 We Learn the Big Picture By Hitting Rock Bottom

- God has laws (light houses) out there that are bigger than we are. Unfortunately we learn by disobedience (ex. Reaping and Sowing)
- Practicing “at risk” behaviors
 - Alcoholics often “come to themselves” after losing their jobs or their families
 - Stealing things that don’t belong to you and nobody comes down to get you out, immediately
 - Getting pregnant or getting someone pregnant and unmarried



Pregnancy Cost in America

- Vaginal delivery \$9,600
- Cesarean Section \$15,800
- From Birth to age 17 \$234,000
- From Birth through College \$1.1 Million
(Time Magazine, CNN Money)

#3 We Learn The Bigger Picture By Being Around People Who Have Themselves Been Enlightened - 2 Timothy 2:2

- To be a faithful Christian, hang around faithful Christians
- To be wise with money, develop relationship with wise people
- To have a successful career, relate to successful people
- To be an enlightened husband/wife, develop relationships with enlightened married people

#4 We Can Learn The Big Picture By Observing Dissatisfaction We Bring On Our Loved Ones

- Sometimes, letting our loved ones down can be a compelling force to rebound
- When our babies can't eat or be clothed properly because of laziness on our part
- When parents spend their retirement savings trying to keep us out of trouble
- When people in your life you know and love try to reason with you.
2 Kings 5:13 King Naaman had leprosy. His servants reasoned with him.
“You want things the way you want it; unless you are God, you are not going to get it that way”

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38