

WHAT CAN ONE PERSON DO?

Text: 2 Kings 18:1-6

INTRO: Key phrase, verse 3. He did what was right. Another key phrase, vs 5, He trusted in the Lord. We often hear someone say, "What can I do? I'm just one person." Do you know anyone who is more than one person? What can you do. You can do what is right, and you can trust the Lord.

I. GREAT MEN HAVE OFTEN SERVED WHEN IT SEEMED AS IF THEY WERE ALONE.

- A. Joseph
- B. Moses.

I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me. (Num 11:14)

- C. Joshua, 24:15
- D. Elijah, 1 Kings 19:10, 14

II. SOME SAY, "BUT I'M JUST A YOUNG PERSON, JUST A BOY."

- A. Then be a boy like Daniel, 1:8.
- B. Or like David.
- C. Like Jeremiah. JER 1:6-8

III. OR MAYBE YOU SAY, "I DON'T HAVE ANY AUTHORITY. NO ONE WOULD LISTEN TO ME."

- A. Like Moses, the sheep herder? EX 3:4
- B. Like Joseph, the slave?
- C. Like Peter, the fisherman?
- D. Like Paul, the tent maker?

IV. OR MAYBE YOU'RE SAYING, "BUT I'M A WOMAN."

- A. Like Mary Magdalene who was the first to see Jesus after His resurrection--and spread the news to the apostles and others?
- B. Like Priscilla, who helped her husband teach a gospel preacher, Acts 18:26--and who repeatedly opened her home as a meeting place for the church, Rom 16:3-5;

1 Cor. 16:19.

C. Like Esther, who used her feminine charms to save her whole race, 4:14?

V. OR MAYBE SOME WOULD SAY, "BUT I'M JUST A GIRL."

A. Like the young servant girl, exiled in Syria, who told Naaman's wife about the prophet in Israel that God would use to cure Naaman's leprosy, 2 Kings 5.

B. Like Mariam, who had an integral part in helping to spare the life of baby Moses--and in seeing that he got the Hebrew education that was so much a part of God's being able to use him so wonderfully, EX 2:4-8.

C. Probably the greatest compliment *anyone* was ever paid is recorded in Mark 14:8. It was great because of *Who* said it, and because of *what* He said. "She has done what she could."

VI. MAYBE YOU'RE THINKING, "BUT I'M NOT A LEADER. I'M A FOLLOWER."

Then *follow* those who are doing right. Follow Paul and David when they were right. Follow Godly elders. Follow Jesus!

VII. ALL THESE SUCCESSFUL SERVANTS HAD TWO THINGS IN COMMON.

A. They did what was right. Joseph, David, Mary of Bethany...

B. They trusted the Lord. David, Naaman's young servant girl.
1. You don't have to worry, MT 6:25-33. Trust God.
2. You don't have to retaliate, ROM 12:19. Trust God.
3. You don't have to judge God's servants, ROM 14:4. Trust the Lord to do that.

C. In other words, those faithful servants, *did what they could*.

CONCLUSION:

One song can spark a moment,
One flower can wake the dream.

One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald spring.

One smile begins a friendship.
One handclasp lifts a soul.
One star can guide a ship at sea,
One word can frame the goal.

One vote can change a nation,
One sunbeam lights a room.
One candle wipes out darkness,
One laugh will conquer gloom.

One step must start each journey,
One word must start each prayer.
One hope will raise our spirits,
One touch can show you care.

One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what's true.
One life can make the difference,
You see, it's up to you.

Several years ago a successful man wrote a book about his formula for success. The title of the book sums up his philosophy: "All You Can Do Is All You Can Do, But All You Can Do Is Enough." That is even more true in the spiritual realm than in the physical and financial.

When you die, if men can truthfully carve on your tombstone--and on mine, that we have done what we could--then I'll see you in heaven. Just *do what is right* with all your ability, and *trust the Lord* in those realms that exceed your ability--and you will have done what you could.

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, April 24, 1994
Wrightsville, PA, July 31, 1994 (meeting)
Alief, TX, March 2, 1999 (meeting)