

JESUS + NOTHING = EVERYTHING

Week 6: Small Things that Make a BIG Difference

Key Text: Colossians 4:2-18

OPEN

This week we wrap up our look at the book of Colossians. The big idea of this week's focus is that the small things we do for Christ can be used of God to make a BIG difference. In this last chapter, the apostle Paul lists small 'every day' things believers are called to practice that God will use to impact the lives of both believers and unbelievers alike – sometimes in a big way – such as taking a moment to pray for someone or bringing God into a conversation. Paul ends his letter by also listing a number of what we might call 'small names' of scripture who faithfully served the cause of Christ. Sometimes we can forget that the apostle Paul had a whole team of other believers around him to help him carry out the work of the Gospel. God wants each of us to see that we all have an important part in his plan – even if it looks small.

REFLECT

- As we wrap up, go back to Colossians 1:15-20 and list the key things Paul points out about who Jesus is and his position – 'the complete picture' we are given of Jesus.
- In our text, 4:2-6, Paul gives us three different imperatives (practices). What are they?
- In verses 7-18, how many ministry partners does Paul mention? How many are well known? How many aren't?
- List the various tasks these names did to serve.
- What's your guess regarding Archippus' ministry? (v.17)

DISCUSS

- To break the ice, discuss examples of something small that can make a big difference, such as too much salt on food!
- At the beginning of our passage, Paul tells us to be 'watchful' in the context of telling us to be devoted to prayer. What do you think he means by 'watchful'?
- In verse 3, Paul talks about God 'opening a door' to share the message of Jesus. Have you seen God open a door in your own life to speaking to someone about Jesus? Share.
- Another every day practice Paul talks about is 'being wise toward outsiders.' What is your take on what he means?
- In that same verse, Paul seems to suggest that God gives us opportunities with people if we are willing to take them. Brainstorm ways to identify opportunities to talk about Jesus with unbelievers. What are some ways to make the most of those opportunities?
- What does a conversion 'full of grace' look like?

APPLY

- Even a short time of prayer can make a big difference. What is the best hour for you to build prayer into your day?
- Think of or ask God for the name of one unbeliever to pray for this week for God to draw them to himself.
- In similar fashion, think of one person you could look for an opportunity with to have a spiritual conversation.
- Practice explaining the gospel in a role play with your group.

PRAY

- Take time together to pray for the names that God brought to mind of those in your lives who need to come to Christ.
- At the beginning of our passage, Paul talks about being thankful – in prayer, exercise thanksgiving for how God has brought you to him and is using you.
- Re-offer the Lord your life as a living sacrifice in service to him and pray for a greater revelation of Jesus.