

"The life of a disciple is one of faithful attention to the frequent and familiar tasks of each day, however small and insignificant they may seem. The one faithful in today's nickels and dimes is the one to be trusted with the big account, but it is easy to be indifferent toward small obligations while quite sincerely believing oneself fully trustworthy in major matters. The realism of these sayings is simply that life consists of a series of seemingly small opportunities."

"Most of us will not this week christen a ship, write a book, end a war, appoint a cabinet, dine with the queen, convert a nation, or be burned at the stake. More likely the week will present no more than a chance to give a cup of water, write a note, visit a nursing home, teach a Sunday school class, share a meal, tell a child a story, go to choir practice, and feed the neighbor's cat."

(Fred B. Craddock)

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“Who dares despise the day of small things?”

(Zechariah 4:10)

“Money, according to this passage, points beyond itself to the true riches which await us in the life to come. What they are exactly, we can hardly guess. But there are ‘true riches’ which really will belong to us, in a way that money doesn’t, if we learn faithfulness here and now. If we don’t, we shall find ourselves torn between two masters.”

(N.T. Wright)

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (v. 13)

“Most of Jesus’ teaching is non-dualistic but there are a few areas where he’s absolutely dualistic (“either/or”), and it’s usually anything having to do with power and anything having to do with money.”

(Richard Rohr)

In Jewish tradition, wealth (or “mammon”) is not inherently evil. But, neither can someone remain neutral in his/her relationship to it.

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Jesus is warning us to avoid an attempt to “multitask in matters of ultimate concern.”

The reaction from the Pharisees is immediate and intense!



"If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom." (Deut. 28:13)



The Greek word for “sneer” signals more than an attitude. It translates as “to wrinkle one’s nose.” It expresses verbal and physical ridicule!



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"What people value highly is *detestable* in God's sight."

How attentive and faithful are you with the small details of life, compared to a dogged attention to things that fascinate you?

What does your relationship with wealth look like? Are you using your resources in service to the Kingdom, or are they in danger of becoming a rival king?

Invite Jesus to help you with your spiritual vision in order to correct your values and priorities so that your heart is more in line with the heart of God.



Small Details and Wrinkled Noses



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¹⁰ "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

¹³ "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

¹⁴ The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. ¹⁵ He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight."

**The so-called small stuff
actually matters very much.**

Jessica Fechter

“How fascinating!”

The English word “fascinate” traces back to the 1590s, and it comes from French and Latin words meaning “to bewitch, enchant, cast a spell.”



How much is our deepening infatuation with fascination negatively impacting our day-to-day attention to the small details?