

## ***Mount Zion, October, 2010***

*Exodus 17:8-13*

We live in a world where nobody wants to be a nobody; everybody wants to be a somebody. Today many people are trying to do extraordinary things hoping to have their achievements broadcasted across the country. When people begin to desire greatness for themselves instead of desiring to serve the Lord Jesus, then they are in danger of forgetting the principal of Christian service.

Let us not forget that service to God is often given in the form of a humble act, which at first seems to be insignificant. Such an instance is shown in our text. Today we consider,

### ***Insignificant people accomplishing significant results.***

- Although Christians may seem to be insignificant, yet
- They serve to bring about significant results for God.

The man who is insignificant in our text is HUR. Hur was a leader of Israel. Tradition tells us that Hur was the husband of Miriam, the sister of Moses. When Moses went up Mt. Sinai to speak with God, he was gone for almost 6 weeks. During that time, the affairs of government were in the hands of Aaron and Hur.

I am sure that Hur had some leadership ability, but none of his achievements are recorded in Scripture. One humble act of Hur is mentioned, the one in our text, and it really was a humble deed. Let's examine Hur's deed more closely.

Israel was on its way to the Promised Land from Egypt. While on the journey, they were attacked by people called the Amalakites, people descended from Esau and so related to Israel. In the battle that followed, Joshua led the Israelites against the Amalakites, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went to the top of a hill overlooking the battlefield to await the outcome.

Our text says, As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the

Amalakites were winning. We see that Israel's success did not depend upon General Joshua's strategy or the courage of the soldiers of Israel, but rather upon God's power.

### **[volunteer]**

The battle took a long time. Moses became tired. We can't fault him for that. But when Moses lowered his arms and the staff in his hands, Israel began to lose the battle.

When Aaron and Hur saw what was happening, they sat Moses down on a rock and held up his hands, one on either side until evening came. This was certainly a humble deed that Hur did. Anyone could have done it. Holding up a man's hand doesn't take wealth, power, special training and no college degree.

Hur did not hold up his hands as Moses did; he did not fight the battle as the Israelite soldiers did in the front lines getting covered with blood and dust. Hur did not plan the strategy as General Joshua did. All that Hur did was to hold up the hand of Moses – an insignificant deed to say the least

Christians are also insignificant in the eyes of the world, aren't they? Throughout history Christians have been expendable. Although Christians may seem to be insignificant, serving the Lord does bring about significant results for the Lord.

Judging by the Sacred Record, the holding up of the hands of Moses was the most important service rendered by Hur, because, as a result of the uplifted hands of Moses, Joshua overcame the Amalakite army with the sword. Hur's insignificant deed wasn't so insignificant after all; it was part of God's overall plan for His people.

In this battle, the heathen world was beginning its attack on God's people who had come from slavery in Egypt. The Lord made it clear that He was fighting for Israel and would keep the promises He had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

In today's world, people are often guilty of seeking sensational accomplishments. BUT in God's eyes the small work of Christian love is more important than great deeds. In today's world, and even in the Christian Church, it is becoming more and more difficult to find people willing to do seemingly insignificant things out of love for God.

### **Nathan and Katherine, will you help your father?**

It is often easy for Christians to become discouraged serving the Lord.

- To some people being a Christian pastor is insignificant when compared to the work a scientist, a doctor, or a financial wizard does – but is it?
  - (prepare people for eternity)
- To some people teaching in a Christian school, a Sunday School or a VBS is insignificant – but is it?
  - (teaching God's Word to children)
- To some people cleaning a church, being a church librarian, a Ladies' Aid president or a church secretary is insignificant – but is it?
  - (they might appreciate some help)
- To some people singing in a choir, directing a choir is insignificant – but is it?
  - (isn't it a privilege to sing praises to God?)
- To some men being a Councilman is insignificant – but is it?
  - (when you are directing work of the Lord here?)
- To some people, giving offerings to missions, Peace, WLA or another special place is insignificant – but is it?
  - (when you think of preparing leaders in tomorrow's church)
- To some people, doing mission work in prisons is insignificant – but is it?
  - (Jesus died for them, too!)

Let us never forget that service to the Lord, given by Christians, although it may seem to be insignificant, helps to bring about significant results for the Lord. Christian service is important to God no matter what others might think! Nothing done for the Lord is insignificant!

### **Thanks for your service, Dave, Katherine, and Nathan**

The best example of someone who showed a willingness to serve in small matters was Jesus Christ. He was willing to be the servant. He was willing to be the teacher. He was willing to be our Savior. Without Jesus, our existence would become insignificant!

As I look around the church today I see concerned Christians who love their Lord. You are willing to serve, willing to give, willing to speak, willing to sing, willing to pray, willing to do the insignificant things that have to be done so that God's will is done among us!

Are we insignificant sinners serving our Lord? Yes, we are. Is the work that we do for our Lord insignificant? No, it isn't! No matter what some people think! But the work we do, out of love for God, is significant to our God. Please don't hesitate to help me or others who serve. Your help is appreciated! May the Lord be with us always as we serve Him with our lives.

Amen

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