



**Doing**

the

**LITTLE**

*(THEY AREN'T LITTLE)*

**Things**

**2 Corinthians 12:9**



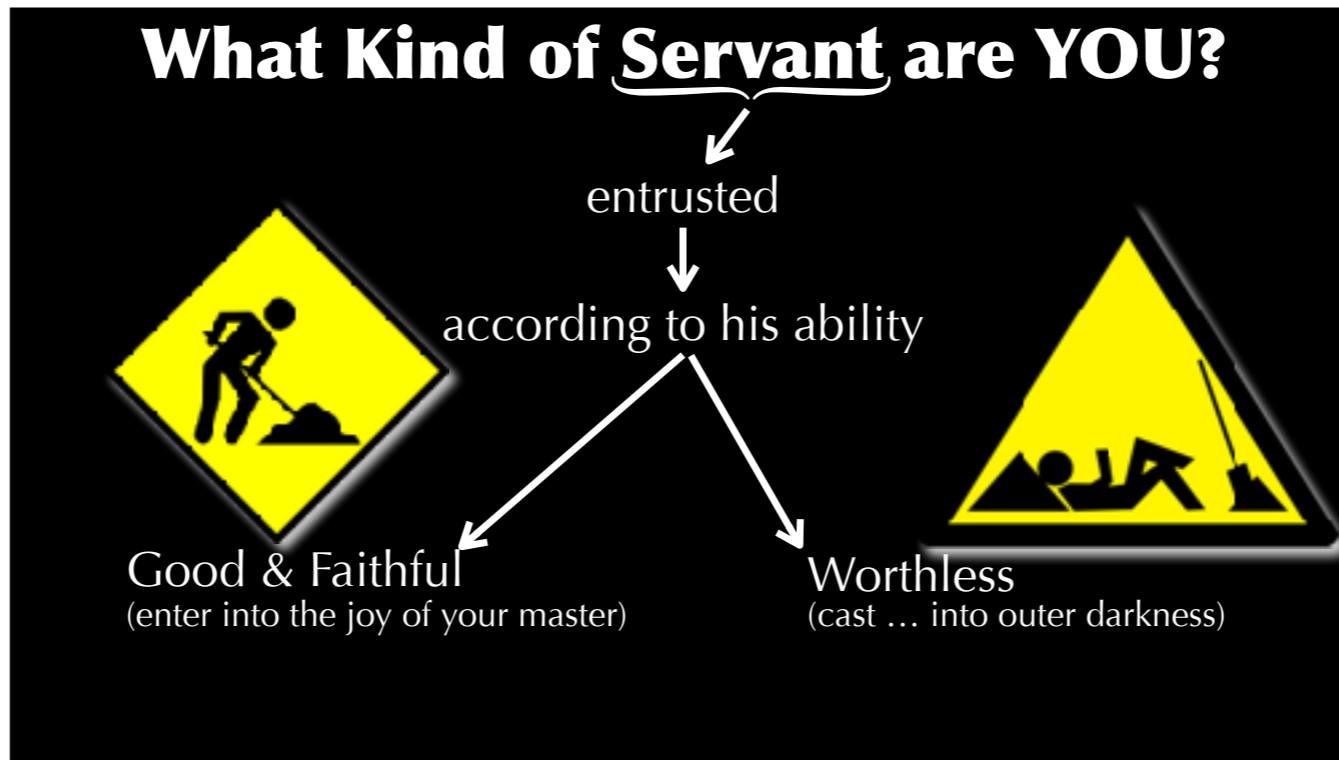
- The first step in constructing a bridge over the Niagara Falls Gorge was made by a 15-year-old American named Homan Walsh.
- On January 30, 1848, Homan flew a kite he named Union from one side of the gorge to the other.
- Someone on the opposite side caught the kite and tied a stronger string to the end of the kite string, and Holman pulled the new, thicker string back across the gorge.



- The process was repeated with an even stronger string, then a cord, then a thin rope, then a thicker rope, and eventually a steel cable, which crossed the expanse and was strong enough to support workers, tools, and materials.
- Finally, a sturdy bridge, over which trains and trucks could easily pass, was completed.
- And it all began with a string.

# What Kind of Servant are YOU?

- Matthew 25:14-30 (ESV) 14 “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’



- What kind of servant are you?
- The master entrusted each servant
- According to his ability.
- Either
  - Good and faithful (enter into the joy of your master)
  - Worthless (cast into outer darkness)

# What Kind of Servant are YOU?

entrusted



according to his ability

God knows what you can do.

Good & Faithful  
(enter into the joy of your master)

- 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, **to each according to his ability.**
- God knows what you are capable of doing!
  - Is that comforting or scary?
  - He's not expecting more of you than you can do.

# What Kind of Servant are YOU?

entrusted



according to his ability

God knows what you can do.

foolish

weak

low & despised

not

Good & Faithful

(enter into the joy of your master)

• Those Who God Calls — 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

• For consider your **calling**, brothers:

- not many of you were wise according to worldly standards,
- not many were powerful,
- not many were of noble birth.

# What Kind of Servant are YOU?

entrusted



according to his ability

God knows what you can do.

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Good & Faithful

(enter into the joy of your master)

• 27 But God chose

- what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;
- God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;
- 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world,
- even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,



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- 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.
- 30 And because of him **you are in Christ Jesus**,
  - who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
  - 31 so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

# What Kind of Servant are YOU?



Good & Faithful  
(enter into the joy of your master)

entrusted

God trusts that you will.

according to his ability

God knows what you can do.

foolish

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not

- Matthew 25:14 “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and **entrusted to them** his property.
- God trusts that you will wisely do what he knows you can do.
- Stewards:
  - 1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful

# What Kind of Servant are YOU?



Good & Faithful  
(enter into the joy of your master)

entrusted

God trusts that you will.

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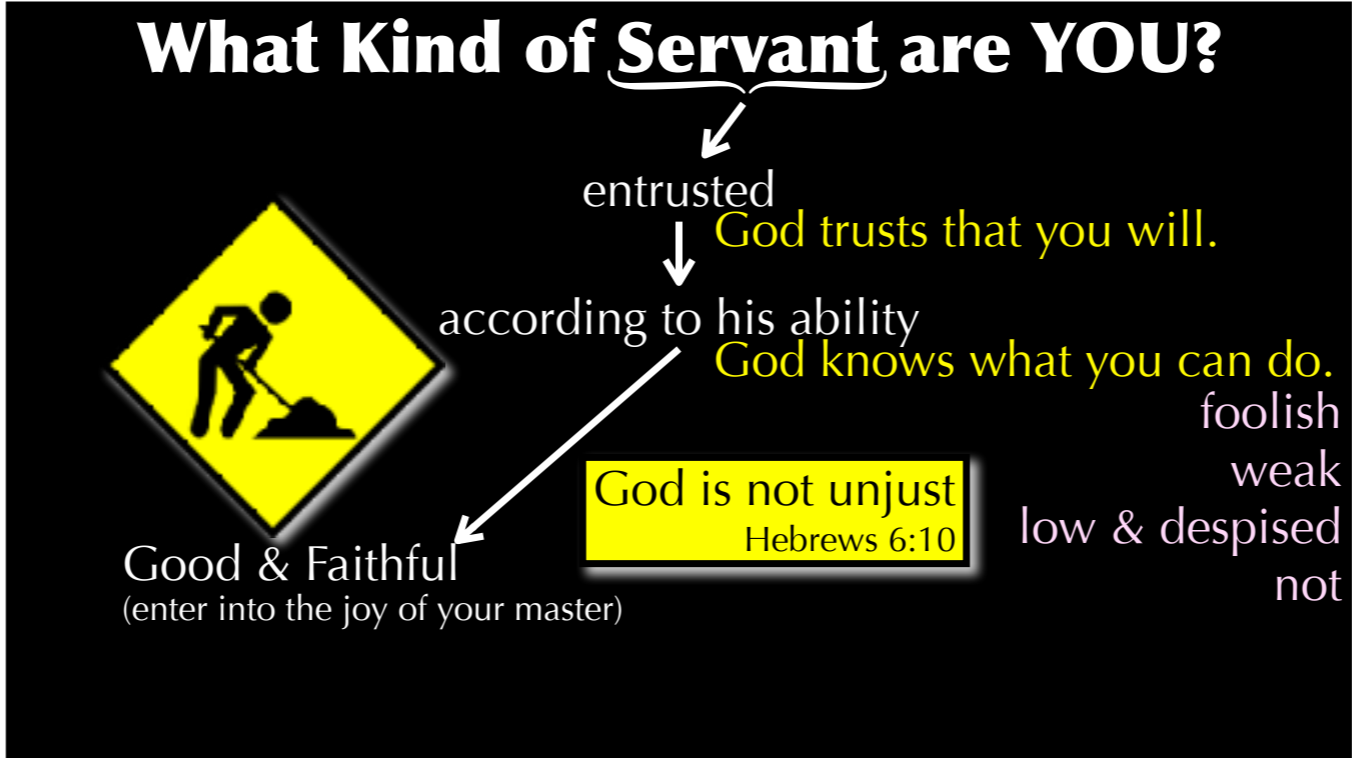
foolish

weak

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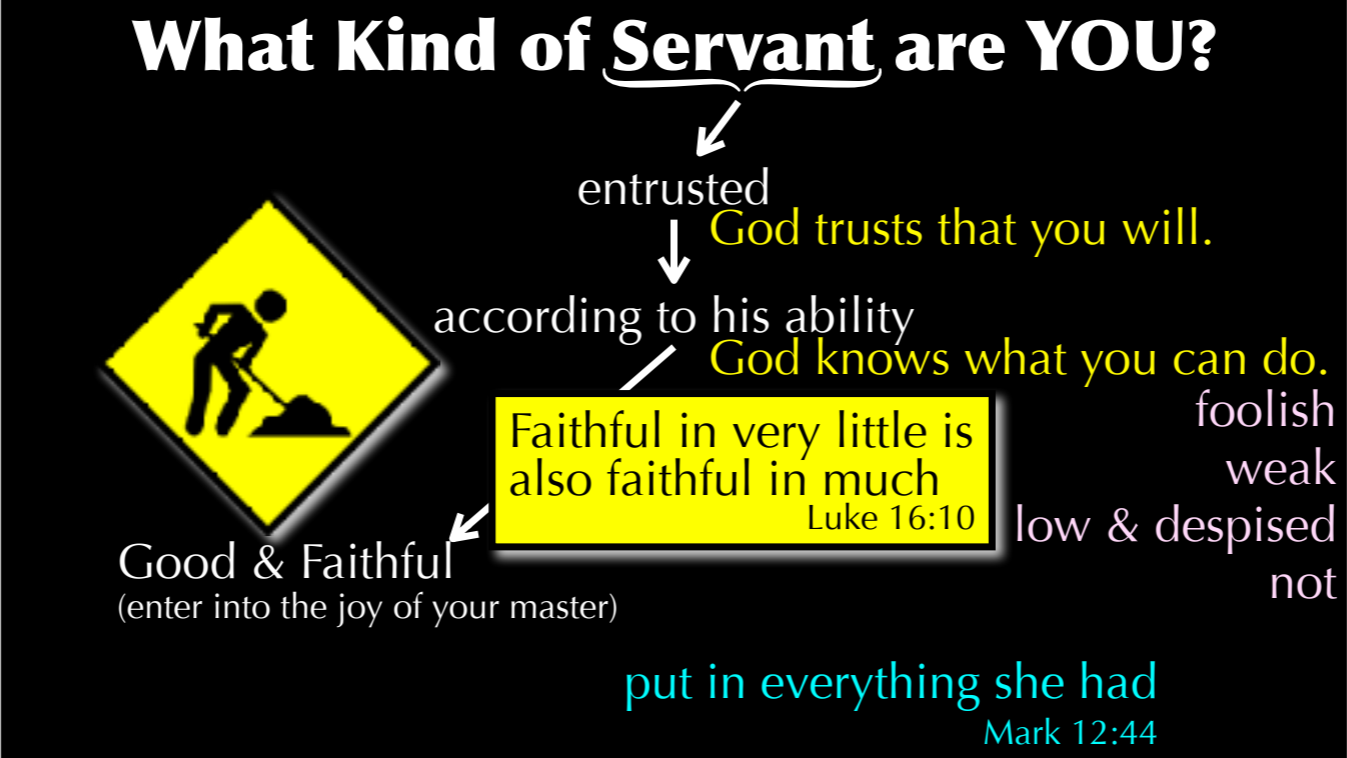
not

- This is really an amazing thought that we seldom consider seriously.
  - Given the evidence of 100's of generations of man why would God trust any of us to do what is right?
  - God really does expect us to be the new man that he transforms through believe and baptism
    - No longer like the world
    - And so he trusts us to use his gifts wisely

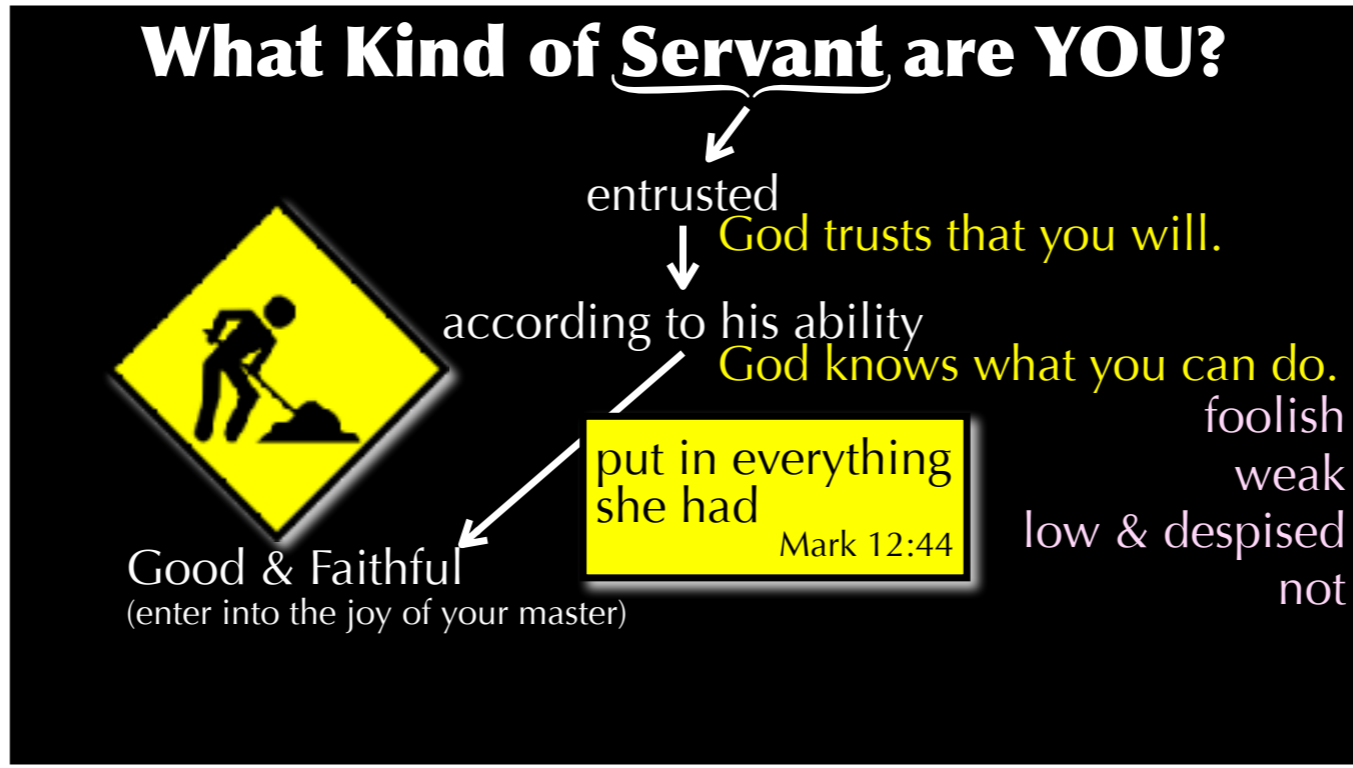


- GOD IS NOT UNJUST

- Hebrews 6:10 (ESV) 10 For God is not unjust so as to **overlook** your **work** and the **love** that you have shown for his name in **serving the saints**, as you still do.



- Perspective
  - Faithfulness
    - Luke 16:10 (ESV) 10 “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.



- Everything

- Mark 12:41-44 (ESV) 41 And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. 42 And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. 43 And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. 44 For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

## What Can I DO?



- What Can I do?



- James 1:27 (ESV) 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.
- Pure and undefiled religion
  - Is the order mentioned here significant?
  - James points us first to look outside of ourselves toward others.
  - This is vital, I think, in understanding both who our Father is, and who he wants us to be.
    - We must look outside ourselves, consider the needs of others, and help them



## What Can I DO?



**Be HOLY**

**Keep Yourself Unstained**

**James 1:27**

- James 1:27 to keep oneself unstained from the world.
  - Here we see the importance of an inward focus.
  - Recognition that intimate association with the world will penetrate into our character, cause us to be less than what our Father longs for us to be.
  - So we strive to not be influenced by the world

## What Can I DO?



**Be HOLY**

**Keep Yourself Unstained**

**James 1:27**

- Be holy, for I am holy.
- Our thinking in this case is governed by a deep desire to be like our father (and so not like the world)
  - Notice that here is not commanding us to change the world (that would be a great task)
  - Rather, he desires that we maintain our holiness in the midst of godlessness.



- Matthew 25:31-40 (ESV) 31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.
  - 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food,
  - I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
  - I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
  - 36 I was naked and you clothed me,
  - I was sick and you visited me,
  - I was in prison and you came to me.’
- 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

# What Can I DO?



**Be RIGHTEOUS**

**Feed the hungry**

**Give drink to the thirsty**

**Show hospitality**

**Clothe the naked**

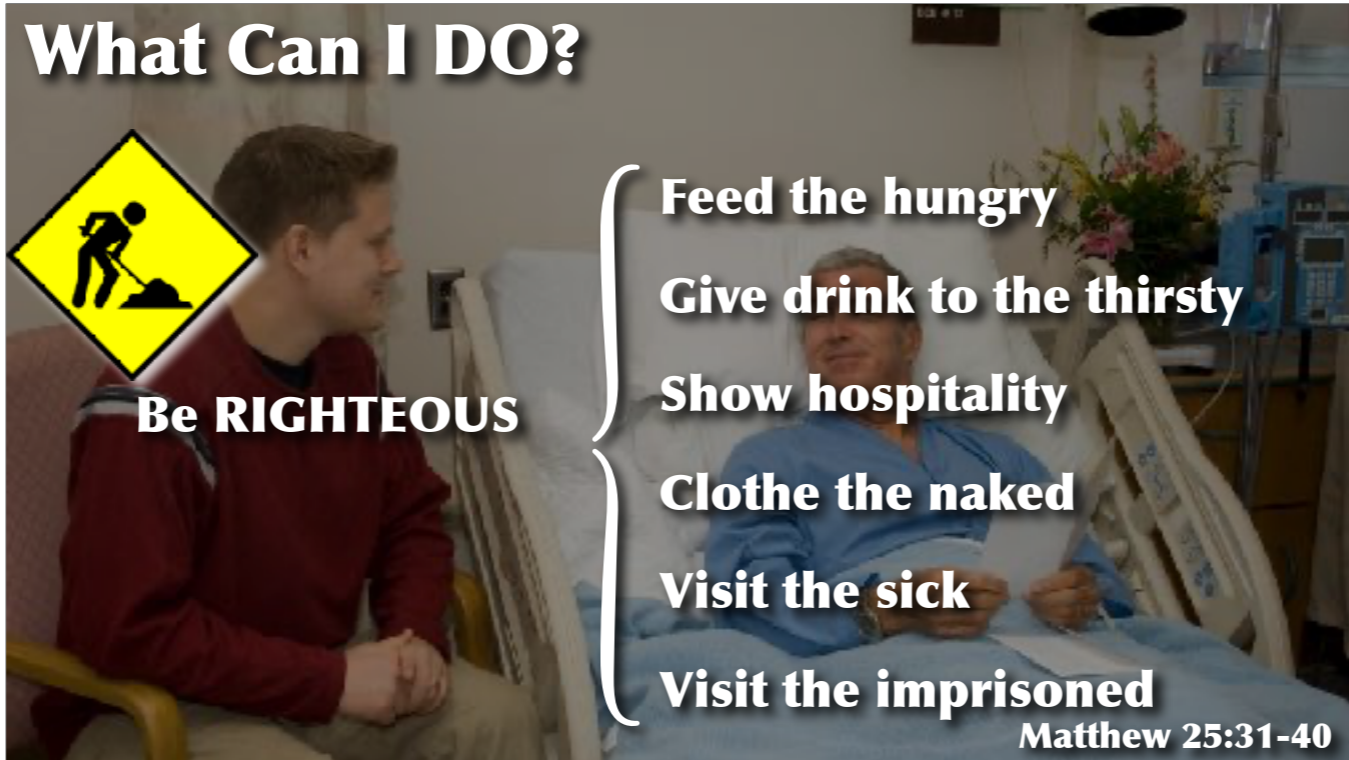
**Visit the sick**

**Visit the imprisoned**

**Matthew 25:31-40**

- 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food,
- I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
- I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
- 36 I was naked and you clothed me,
- I was sick and you visited me,
- I was in prison and you came to me.'

# What Can I DO?



**Be RIGHTEOUS**

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Show hospitality
- Clothe the naked
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned

Matthew 25:31-40

- 40 And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'
- Notice again how this is outward focused: What can I do to help others?
- The measure is how much we help those who we sometimes consider "the least"
- He's not asking us to build on a grand scale: homes, institutions, etc.
- When we see the need, we meet the need.

# What Can I DO?



**Be RIGHTEOUS**

**Feed the hungry**

**Give drink to the thirsty**

**Show hospitality**

**Clothe the naked**

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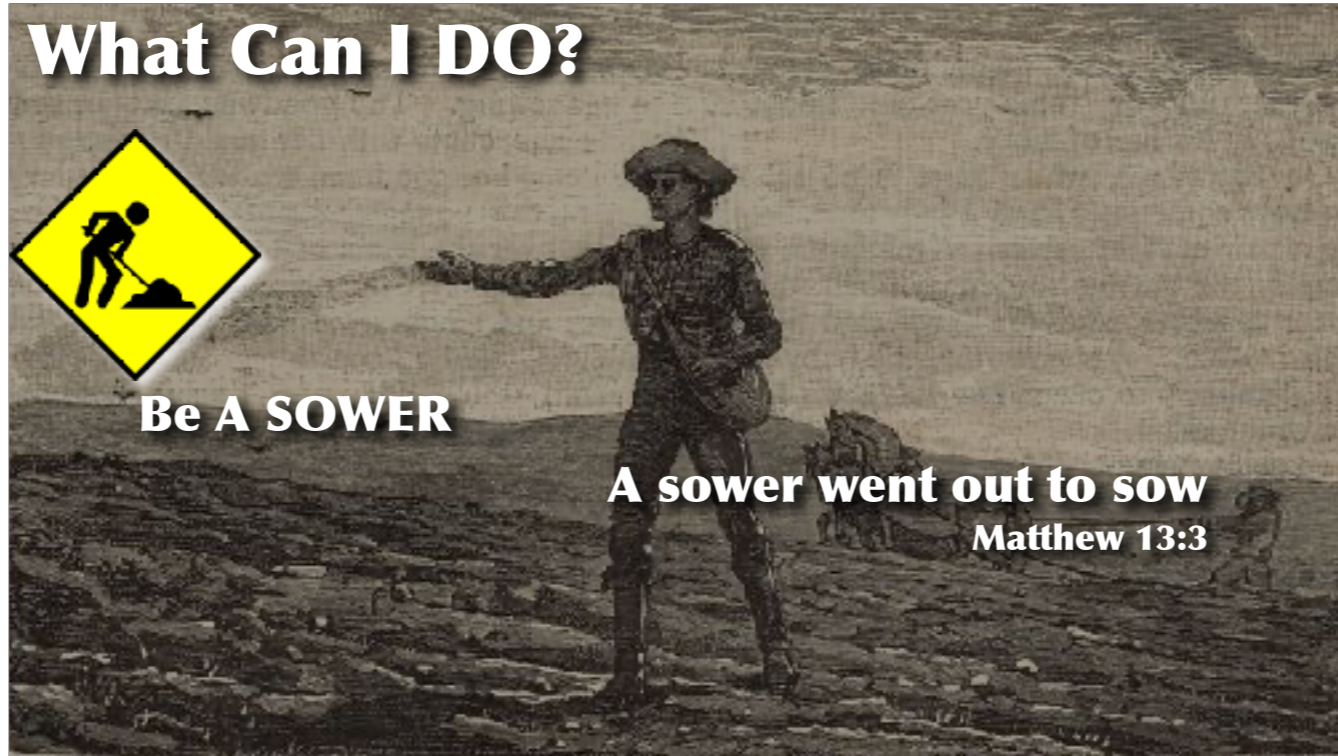
**Matthew 25:31-40**

- Matthew 10:42 And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”



- Be Devoted

- Acts 16:25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God,
  - and the prisoners were listening to them,
- Acts 16:30-34 (ESV) 30 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. 34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

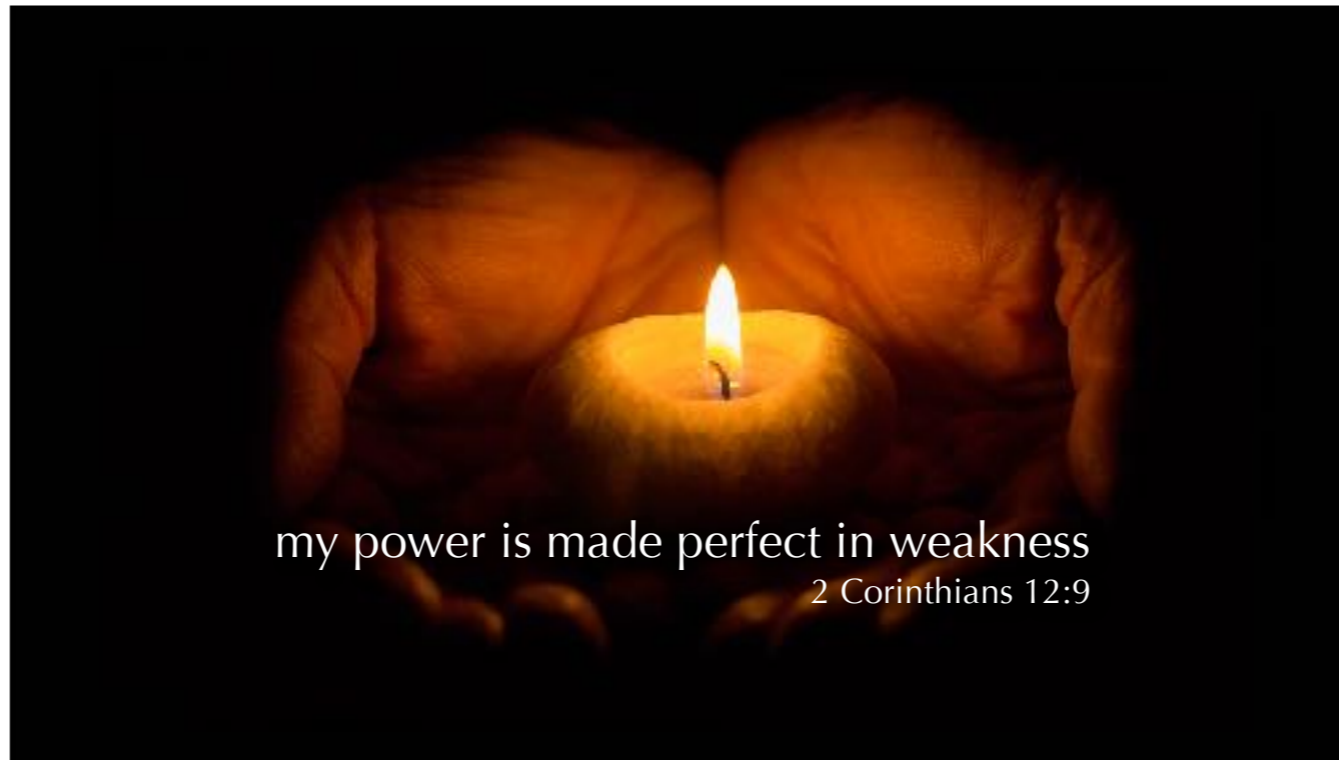


- Be A Sower
  - Matthew 13:3 (ESV) 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow.
  - Matthew 13:18 (ESV) 18 "Hear then the parable of the sower
- How do I sow the seed?
  - Talk about Jesus in daily life.
  - Always talk about good news.
  - Listen to others ... point them to Jesus



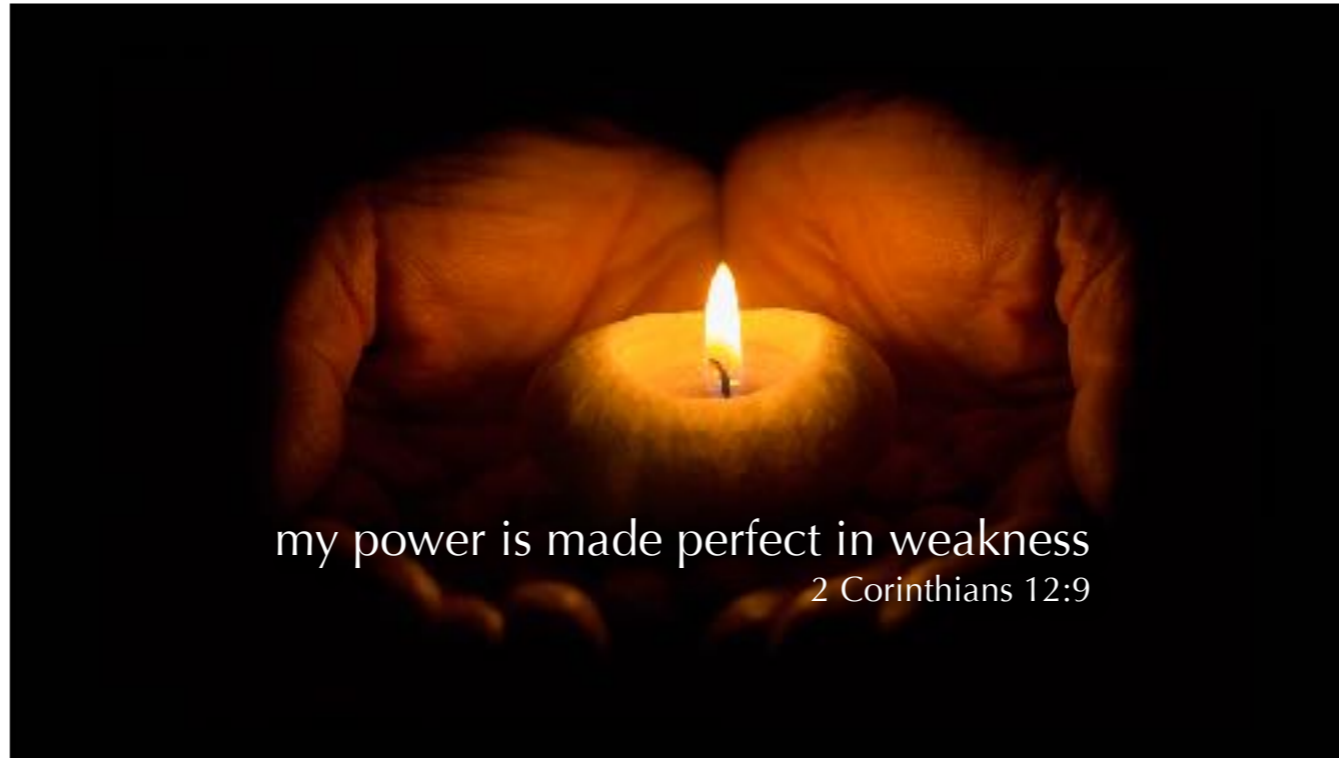


- While “little things”
  - Compared (inappropriately) to evangelist, missionaries, etc.
  - Not saying you have to do all these things, or even all the time: we all have our own abilities, own endurance
  - Not little in the eyes of God
    - GOD IS NOT UNJUST
      - Hebrews 6:10 (ESV) 10 For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.



my power is made perfect in weakness  
2 Corinthians 12:9

- 2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV) 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
  - God knows your ability ... he doesn't expect more of you than you can do.
  - God trusts you to use your ability in His service
  - These “little things” can lead to helping those who need help; salvation for those who need to be saved



my power is made perfect in weakness  
2 Corinthians 12:9

- What can I do?
  - Be ... (trying to be tricky)
    - merciful, holy, righteous, devoted, a sower
    - Who you are drives what you do for others.
  - Be like Jesus, be like your Father
    - Look at others and do the little things.



Well done, good and faithful servant.  
You have been faithful over a **little**;  
I will set you over much.  
Enter into the joy of your master.

Matthew 25:21, 23

- 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'
- Am I faithful over little?

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

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## Doing the Little Things (they aren't little)

2 Corinthians 12:9

Synopsis: Our Father knows our abilities and trusts us to use them in his service faithfully. These "little things" demonstrate our zeal for being like our Father so we must be merciful, holy, righteous, devoted, and a sower.

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**"Let all that you do be done with love."**