



EXEGETIS

When the people returned to Israel after being exiled, one of their first undertakings was to rebuild the temple. Years before, Solomon's temple stood as an impressive achievement, but now it was destroyed and the idea of having to start over again made some of the Israelites weep. Zerubbabel was the civic leader of Jerusalem who had the responsibility of rebuilding the temple. Early into the work of laying the foundation; the progress had stalled, people were weeping, and Zerubbabel needed encouragement to carry on the work.

It was at this time that God spoke to the prophet Zechariah. There were three things God told Zechariah to pass on to Zerubbabel about his work.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT BEING ENOUGH.

The job of rebuilding the temple was more than Zerubbabel could handle, and he knew it. Most of us are well aware of our limitations, but what God wanted Zerubbabel to know is that while it's good for us to know our strengths and weaknesses, it's much more important to be aware of the unlimited power of God.

'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.

Zechariah 4:6 NIV



Like Zerubbabel, we might not feel like we have the ability to accomplish the task in front of us. We might be worn out and weary. We might be out of ideas and resources. We might be hugely uncomfortable in the place where God has put us. But God wants our life to reflect his power.

SMALL IS WHERE THE KINGDOM STARTS.

We are tempted to believe that 'If God were really in this, things would be bigger by now'. But God's story is filled with people who were faithful with the small things.

Not only that, but Jesus spoke continually of small things, especially when he was describing the Kingdom of God.

What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his garden; and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches. To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.

Luke 13:18-19 ESV

A grain of mustard seed. A pinch of leaven. Big things start small, and one day they will no longer be small.

"For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice," Zechariah says, because one day the small will no longer be small. "Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain."

Zechariah 4:10 ESV

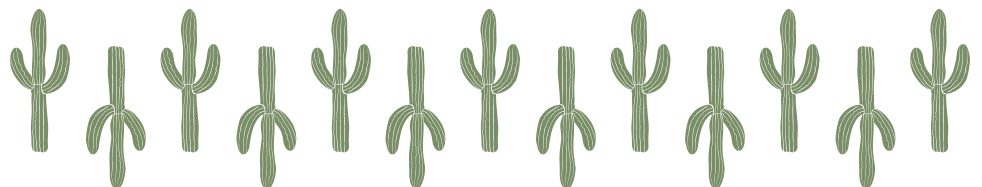
STARTING SMALL DOESN'T MEAN SMALL THINKING.

God promised Zerubbabel that he would be the one to finish the temple. Zerubbabel laid the first stone, the foundation, and, as prophesized by Zechariah, the last stone.

"... Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of 'God bless it! God bless it!'"

Zechariah 4:7 NIV

According to Smith's Bible Dictionary, this "was the most memorable event in Zerubbabel's life – the spirit of prophecy suddenly blazed up with a most brilliant light among the returned captives ... In a moment Zerubbabel roused from his apathy and threw his whole strength into the work."





Apathy is the absence of passion, emotion or excitement. Somewhere along the way Zerubbabel got distracted by other projects, discouraged by the process, frustrated by the sacrifice required and irritated by a lack of support from others. He failed to see how his actions in this moment, with these people, in this place were impacting the future. That is where Zerubbabel was, until Zechariah reminded him why he had started this project in the first place.



We can sometimes get stuck in small thinking, our vision obstructed by the obstacles of today. But, what does it look like to follow a God who makes big promises? A God who is faithful? It will mean praying for the big, longing for the big, and working for the big — all while faithfully and contentedly devoting ourselves to what is in front of us. Pray for revival, and then prepare breakfast for your kids.

As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been yes and no. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you...was not yes and no, but in Him, it is always yes. For all the promises of God find their yes in Him. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen to God for His glory.

2 Corinthians 1:20 ESV



THIS IS THE YEAR THAT YOUR YES, IS WHERE IT ALL BEGINS.

- YES TO BEING ENOUGH.**
- YES TO STARTING SMALL AND THINKING BIG.**
- YES TO PASSION.**
- YES TO GOD.**



Amen, and let it be so.