1. Introduction: the context
   1. Post Babylonian captivity & **the rebuilding of the Temple**.
      1. **Zerubbabel led the first wave back** to Jerusalem.
      2. **Worship started immediately** (Ezra 3:3-4) and then **the work started on the foundation of the temple**. (Ezra 3:9-11)
      3. But **it wasn’t what it used to be**. (Ezra 3:12-13) **Resistance came, discouragement followed** & the **work stopped**. (Ezra 4:1-5;17-23)
      4. Haggai came 14 years later to stir the people up. (**Haggai 2:1-9) Work resumed** but **the people quickly became discouraged again** and stopped again. (What about for themselves? (**Haggai 1:2-4**)
      5. **Zechariah** also prophesied during this time frame. (**Zechariah 4:6-10)**
      6. So little done, **so much yet to accomplish** yet **God promised *“his hands will finish it”*** (vs. 8) and **God then asked**, ***“For who has despised the day of small things?”***
2. **Big things only accomplished through small steps:**
   1. **Temptation** to **ignore the small details, steps & actions**.
      1. It’s **how the church began**. (**Matthew 13:31-33)**
   2. **God chooses to work through things and people the world overlooks and disdains**.   
      (1 Corinthians 1:27-29; Hebrews 11:32-40; Acts 4:13; Acts 17:6; Isaiah 37:31-32)
   3. **Repetition of seemingly insignificant acts** can produce extraordinary results. **(Daniel 6:3; 10)**
3. **How do we “despise the day of small things” today?**
   1. **Minimizing Consistent Obedience & Faithfulness.**
      1. **Consider Joseph & Daniel and how they made up their minds.** (Genesis 39:8-9; Daniel 1:8; 6:10)
      2. **No matter who is with us.** (Philippians 2:12)
      3. **Whether at home or away (i.e., vacation)**!
   2. **Failing to maximize the potential the “small” moments of opportunity each day provide**
      1. **Consider Jesus & the Samaritan woman.** (John 4:7-14, 24-25, 28-29, 39-42)   
         What if He didn’t talk with her?
      2. **What exactly does a “*door*” of opportunity *“for the word”* look like?** (Colossians 4:3-6; cf., Matthew 9:37)
4. How can we avoid “despising the day of small things”? **By not despising**…
   1. **The small acts of service**.
      1. **Every part is needed**, every act of service critical.
      2. **Ephesians 4:11-12,** *“… the equipping of the saints for the work of service…”*
      3. **1 Corinthians 12:22-23,** *“…on these we bestow more abundant honor…”*
      4. **Acts of service anyone can do**! (Matthew 10:40-42; John 13:5ff)
      5. **That matter to others and ourselves**, (Matthew 25:31ff)
   2. **The Small Things of Obedience by Faith**
      1. **Matthew 23:23 - Jesus didn’t say the little things don’t matter.**
      2. **A walk in “darkness” begins with a single step.** (1 John 1:5-9)
   3. **The Small Things of Prayer**
      1. **It can accomplish much.**
      2. **James 5:16,** *“…effective prayers… accomplish much”.*
      3. **Luke 11:5-13,** *“…he will… give him as much as he needs”*
      4. **What is my part?** (Matthew 7:7-8)
   4. **The Small Things of Our Thoughts And Our Words**
      1. **Can a single thought change anything?** (2 Corinthians 10:5; Proverbs 4:23)
      2. **Our tongue is the rudder that steers the ship. (James 3**)
   5. **The Small Things of Regularly Reading/Studying God’s word**
      1. **It is to be a daily part of our life**. **Psalms 1:2-3**
      2. It is to be **hungered for daily**. **1 Peter 2:1-2**
      3. It is to be **paid attention to**. **1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 2:1**
      4. It may not seem like a big thing but we need to **read and meditate every day**.   
         **Deuteronomy 6:6-7**
   6. **The Small Things Of Fulfilling Our Roles Within The Family**
      1. The importance of fulfilling our responsibility everyday as husbands, wives and children. **Ephesians 6:1ff; Deuteronomy 6:4-9**
      2. To teach and train our children, to love our spouse and children, and to be an example to them.
   7. The Small Things Of **Making The Most Of Our Time** & **Blessings**
      1. **To talk to others about the hope within us**. (1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 2:2; John 4)
      2. To **take a step forward in our spiritual growth**. (2 Peter 1:5-10)
      3. To **do some** “***good***” in this world. **Ephesians 5:15-17**
      4. **Value each day** (Psalms 90:12) **and be good stewards of what God has blessed us with.** (Matthew 25:23)
      5. To be **thankful for everything**. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
   8. The Small Things Of **Daily Sacrifice & Denial**
      1. **The importance of one denial and sacrifice made.** (Luke 9:23-24; Titus 2:12;Romans 12:1-2)
      2. **One act of putting sin to death.** (Colossians 3:5-8; Ephesians 4:17ff)
      3. **One right thought exercised and one wicked thought restrained.** (Philippians 4:8; 1 Peter 1:13; 2 Corinthians 10:5)
   9. The Small Things Of Our **Opportunities To Make Things Right With God**
      1. **Today is the day**… **Hebrews 4:6-7**
      2. **To complete your faith and act upon what God has told you to do**. (James 2:22)
      3. **To confess our faith in Jesus Christ as the Son Of God**. (Acts 8:37)
      4. **To repent and be baptized into the name of Jesus Christ unto remission of your sins**. (Acts 2:38)