

## Don't Dismiss the Little

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year, B)

July 29, 2018

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“It’s not going to make a difference anyway!” Have you ever used that phrase before? We usually use it immediately before giving up on something. It is our justification for giving up.

Our scripture readings today call attention to people who would have been on the brink of giving up because of this very attitude... “it’s not going to make a difference anyway.” In both cases, they are asked to share the little food that they have with large hungry crowds. Obviously, there isn’t enough food for everyone. What’s the point of trying the impossible?

In our First Reading from *Second Kings*, the servant objected to Elisha when Elisha told him to give the twenty barley loaves to the crowd. He said, ‘how can I set this before a hundred people?’ ‘You’re kidding, right?’ In our *Gospel*, Jesus likewise told the disciples to feed the crowd of at least 5,000. Andrew objected and said that there is a boy here with five barley loaves and two fish, but “what good are these for so many?” ‘Why bother?’

By the end of both stories, however, through some miraculous intervention, the servant and disciples distribute the little food they have and everyone has enough to eat. Not only that, but there are leftovers!

God isn’t dismissive of the little that we bring. Even though we are dismissive of ourselves and other people are dismissive of us too, God isn’t. God sees that which we overlook. Instead of being dismissive, we need to learn how to be bold and confident in ourselves and in the little we have to offer. Each one of us have something that only we can offer. There will never be another one of us ever again!

Whenever we think of offering the little that we have, we think of St. Therese of Lisieux, the one who is called ‘the little flower’ and was famous for what she called ‘the little way.’ As a young girl, Therese always had big dreams for her life, such as traveling across the world as a missionary or even becoming a priest, but never had the

opportunities to do so. Instead, she entered a Carmelite Monastery in France at the young age of 15. From then on, she was confined to the walls of the monastery. It was there within those walls of the monastery that she realized she might not be able to do great things, but that she could do the small things there with great love. Today, she is not only recognized as a saint, but as a Doctor (of Official Teacher) of the Church. Do the little things with great love is her teaching.

*We cannot be dismissive of the little bit we have to offer because that little bit is valuable to God.*

Am I dismissive of what I have to offer to life? If so, we will never experience miracles. We will never experience multiplication of loaves and fish. Let us pray for the eyes of faith, eyes which see everything and overlook nothing.