

# Big Faith - Part 3

Sunday, August 11, 2019  
10:15 AM

So far we have learned that Big Faith is like the mustard seed, the smallest of seeds that grows into the largest of all garden plants so that it becomes a tree, one that can sustain and support life (Birds make nests in its branches). BIG FAITH sees the BIG PICTURE of what it can become and does so through the power of our BIG GOD. This BIG FAITH will see the Impossible take place.

We also learned that BIG FAITH is like the Persistent Widow who never gave up. BIG FAITH KEEPS GOING...

1. When the way is dark and the path uncertain
2. When the journey is difficult, long and uphill
3. When culture or the church presents a different road
4. When what you have been believing for dies

This is the faith that Jesus longs to find in us when He returns for walk by faith and not by sight.

Today we want to look at one more aspect of BIG FAITH.

## **Matthew 25:14-21 (NIV)**

**14** “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. **15** To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. **16** The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. **17** So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. **18** But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

**19** “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. **20** The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

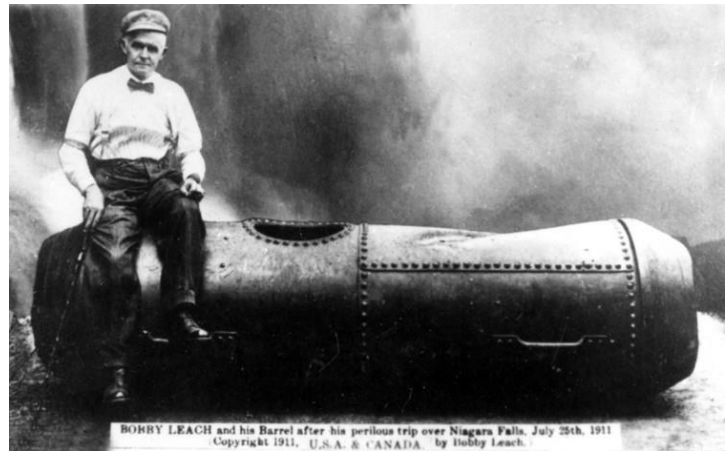
**21** “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

**Luke 16:10 (NIV)**

**10** “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

## **BIG FAITH watches out for the LITTLE THINGS**

### **1. LITTLE THINGS can trip us up**



*Bobby Leach achieved fame and fortune when, at the age of 53, he went over Niagara Falls in a barrel.*

*After recuperating from his injuries, Bobby toured North America and the UK with the historic barrel in tow, recounting the experience for enthusiastic audiences in circus tents and lecture halls.*

*Leach had been a lifelong circus performer, so daredevil stunts were nothing new to him. Even into his sixties he was attempting crazy things, such as swimming across whirlpool rapids.*

*So how did he die? 15 years after his trip over the falls...*

*He was the victim of an Orange peel. No kidding. He slipped on it, injuring his leg. The leg became infected, leading to gangrene, requiring an amputation, but it was too late. He died within a couple of months.*

*It's the little things...*

*Is it strange that the man who could survive Niagara Falls in a barrel couldn't survive an Orange peel?*

*Actually, no.*

*More often than not, it's the little things that beat us. It's because they catch us off guard. When you know you're going over the falls in a barrel, you're fully prepared and prayed up. Something as mundane as walking across the room, however, you're likely to think you've got it handled.*

*That's when we're likely to slip.*

*And that's why Paul said...*

*So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! (1 Corinthians 10:12)*

**1 Corinthians 10:12 (ESV)**

**12** Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

*I wonder how that Orange peel got to Mr. Leach. Did he see it and think that the mere skin of a fruit couldn't hurt him? Or was he simply not paying attention? Either way, the mistake proved fatal.*

*Think about the banana peels you encounter throughout the day. A missed devotional. A half-hearted effort at work. Spending without thinking. Carelessness in conversation. Neglecting those most important to you.*

*These things are more malicious than they appear. If you're not careful, they can make you fall.*

**Illustration:** Brianna's Surgery this week

Big Faith watches out for the LITTLE THINGS and takes care not to get tripped up by them.

Lot's journey seems to be one that failed to discern the impact of LITTLE THINGS...

**Genesis 13:12 (NIV)**

**12** Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom.

Soon Lot's life was completely immersed in the life and culture of Sodom. So much so that God had to send 2 Angels to the City who literally had to drag Lot and his family out of the city before God destroyed it. But even then Lot was not watching for the Little Things

**Genesis 19:16-20 (NIV)**

**16** When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the Lord was merciful to them. **17** As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!"

**18** But Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please! **19** Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I'll die. **20** Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it—**it is very small, isn't it?** Then my life will be spared."

**James 3:5 (NIV)**

**5** Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

**2. LITTLE THINGS can be opportunities for our faith to be planted and grow into BIG THINGS**

Remember the parable of the Mustard Seed... Before that Smallest of seeds can become the largest of all Garden Plants it must be planted.

**Matthew 13:31 (NIV)**

**31** He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.

Big Faith doesn't see the smallness of the seed, but what the seed can become...  
(Remember Big Faith sees the Big Picture)

That's why Zechariah reminds us...

**Zechariah 4:8-10 (NIV)**

**8** Then the word of the Lord came to me: **9** “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it. Then you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you.

**10** “Who dares despise the day of small things (beginnings), since the seven eyes of the Lord that range throughout the earth will rejoice when they see the chosen capstone in the hand of Zerubbabel?”

So Big Faith watches out for the Little things... Something Jesus tried to teach his disciples

**Matthew 15:33-34 (NIV) \*4000 fed with 7 basketfuls leftover**

**33** His disciples answered, “Where could we get enough bread in this remote place to feed such a crowd?”

**34** “How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked.

“Seven,” they replied, “and a few small fish.”

**John 6:5-9 (NIV) \*5000 Fed**

**5** When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” **6** He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

**7** Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages[a] to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

**8** Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, **9** “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

**Mark 12:42 (NIV)**

**42** But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.