



THE NOBLE HEART™

All for the want of a horseshoe nail

February 24, 2010 eLetter

A friend recently e-mailed me a question that I would like to share with you. He asked me,

“Is there more to calling than just finding that ultimate place of SERVICE to the less fortunate? Even as I write the words I think the answer must surely be “yes”. But there is so much focus today (even in the secular world) on how we are to “give back”. There is so much applause for *volunteer* work that it seems to be sucking up all of the purpose that people’s lives may have, as if to say there is no glory to your life outside of volunteer work.”

This is such a great question...and I think one that we have all wondered about, and I would love to share with you my thoughts.

First look at 2 Thess. 1:11, “We pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power.” It is fascinating to me that calling was not tied to “church” or “charity” or “mission” activities. Paul simply linked calling with “every desire for goodness”.

Secondly, consider Phil. 2:13, “It is God who is producing both the desire and ability to do what pleases Him.” So a life that would please God is a life lived out of the desire that God has placed in person’s heart – both the desire for God *and* the person’s particular “desire for goodness”.

And last, Isa. 61: 3-4 says, “They will be called oaks of righteousness...a display of His splendor. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.” The affect of our life should be rebuilding, restoring and renewing.

In one of the classic Mother Goose rhymes, there is a poem which conveys the transcendent weightiness of our life as played out in what appears to be ordinary life chores (making nails and shoeing horses):

For want of a nail
The shoe was lost,
For want of a shoe
The horse was lost,
For want of a horse

The rider was lost,
For want of a rider
The battle was lost,
For want of a battle
The kingdom was lost,
And all for the want
Of a horseshoe nail.

The outcome of a great battle between kingdoms determined by a farrier (a specialist in equine hoof care)! Wow.

The world is influenced by 7 spheres of life: education, media, family, business, church, arts and government. We must bring the transcendent weightiness of our lives to these spheres of influence. These spheres are where we are to rebuild, restore and renew what has been devastated and ruined.

As Dallas Willard said, "The world can no longer be left to mere diplomats, politicians and business leaders. They have done the best they could do no doubt, but this is an age for spiritual heroes, a time for men to be heroic in faith and spiritual character and power. Holiness and devotion must now come forth from the closet and the chapel to possess the street and the factory, the schoolroom and the board room, the scientific laboratory and the governmental office."

Our calling is to simply let the world around us, that part that we have been assigned to (education, media, family, business, church, arts, and government) experience the glory of our life (our particular splendor, brilliance, abundance, beauty, weightiness, strength). The discovery of what "our glory" is must come by way of our desires. For, "It is God who is producing both the desire and ability to do what pleases Him." Phil. 2:13

So, may God "fulfill [your] every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power".

Questioning with you,

Gary

PS. Here is a great video on the 7 Mountains of Influence in Culture:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQtB-AF41p8&feature=player_embedded