

“A GREAT QUOTE”

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A couple of weeks ago, during our by Wednesday evening devotional, I read a quotation which was in reference to the choice that Lot made following the confrontation between his herdsmen and those of Abraham (Genesis 13:5-11). The quote was from a commentary on Genesis by John T. Willis and was quoted by him from a J. Morgenstern from his “The Book of Genesis” commentary. It was such a great quote I thought I would repeat it here, along with the lesson we discussed from it.

“Opportunities to do great things come only occasionally, even to great people. But the little things which must be done, and done right, come constantly to both great and small. If a man should do a few things well, but should fail in all the little things, we could hardly consider him truly great. Perhaps the true test of greatness is the way a man does the little things....But if he does the little things right and promptly, without doubt and hesitation, if he shows himself the master in little things, then he may believe that he will be equal to the big things when they come...The great man must be always ready to do the right thing in the right way.”

In reading this statement I am reminded of Naaman (II Kings 5). Recall that when he was told by Elisha’s messenger to “*go and wash in Jordan seven times*” (vs. 10) that he went away in a fury, simply because something great had not been at that time done in regards to his situation and/or because something great had not been asked of him to do. However, his servants came to him and asked, “*If the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? How much rather then, when he saith to thee, wash and be clean*” (vs. 13). The common sense approach by these servants prompted Elisha to act in response to this “little thing” that had been asked of him. When he did so, he was cleansed of his leprosy (vs. 14).

The Lord has required of each of us that we “wash and be clean” in the waters of baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:36; 22:16; I Peter 3:21). And yet, many people balk at such an idea. Perhaps, like Naaman, if the Lord had commanded “some great thing” of them they would not be so hesitant.

Remember the thought from the quotation above: “*The great man must be always ready to do the right thing in the right way.*” Even greater, the words of Jesus: “*If you love me, keep my commandments*” (John 14:15).