

Small But Mighty, Part 3: Jesus and His Disciples

God doesn't call the equipped — He equips the called.

Sermon Content

1. Small but Mighty Recap

Over three weeks, we've seen a consistent pattern throughout Scripture: God deliberately chooses the small, the weak, the overlooked, and the unlikely to accomplish His greatest purposes.

God is not looking for the most impressive résumé. He is looking for the willing heart.

- Week 1 — Gideon: From 32,000 soldiers down to 300, God delivered Israel from an army as thick as locusts.
- Week 2 — David's Mighty Men: Distressed, in debt, and discontented — yet God forged them into the foundation of a great kingdom.

2. A Small Town, A Big Promise

Micah 5:2 highlights the smallness of Bethlehem — God did not choose Jerusalem or a powerful city. He chose a humble, easy-to-overlook town to be the birthplace of the Messiah.

God goes to the places that the world has overlooked, the places that do not appear on anybody's shortlist, and He says — that is exactly where I am going to show up. That is exactly where My glory is going to be revealed.

- Gideon came from the weakest clan in Manasseh (Judges 6:15).
- Bethlehem was small among the clans of Judah (Micah 5:2).
- David — the youngest, tending sheep — was overlooked even by his own father.
- This is not coincidence. This is God's pattern.

If you feel small or overlooked today — this message is for you.

3. The Ultimate Small But Mighty Moment

The God who created the universe wrapped Himself in human flesh and entered the world as a helpless newborn baby — in a stable, in Bethlehem, welcomed by shepherds.

What looked small to the world was the mightiest thing that has ever happened in the history of creation.

- The hands that formed the mountains became tiny baby hands.
- The King of kings chose the manger over the palace.

- That baby grew up, died for our sins, and rose from the dead — changing everything.

God's ways are not our ways. And aren't you glad for that?

4. Ordinary Men, Extraordinary Mission

Jesus chose fishermen — not rabbis, scholars, or the religious elite — to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth. (Matthew 4:18-20)

Jesus pursued the man who had failed Him and reinstated and restored him for the mission.

- Peter: Impulsive, outspoken, and a man who denied Jesus three times.
- Jesus did not write Peter off — He restored him and reinstated him.
- On the Day of Pentecost, Peter preached and 3,000 people came to faith in a single day.
- Acts 4:13 — The religious leaders saw that Peter and John were "unschooled, ordinary men" and "took note that these men had been with Jesus."

The difference was not education or ability. They had been with Jesus.

5. God Chose the Foolish Things

A nameless little boy showed up with five small loaves and two small fish — and placed them in the hands of Jesus. Jesus fed over 5,000 people, with twelve baskets of leftovers. (John 6)

Not their education. Not their social standing. Not their natural ability. They had been with Jesus.

- The disciples focused on what they didn't have.
- Jesus looked for what was available.
- God is not asking for an extraordinary gift or a perfect track record.
- He is asking you to open your hands and say: "Lord, this is what I have. Use me."

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 — God chose the foolish, the weak, and the lowly — so that no one may boast before Him.

6. A Little Boy's Lunch

And Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, gave thanks to God, and fed the entire crowd. Not just a bite each — the Bible says they ate until they were satisfied, and there were twelve baskets of leftovers. Twelve baskets of leftovers from one little boy's small lunch. Friends, that is a picture of what God can do when we simply make ourselves available to Him.

When we place what little we have into the hands of Jesus, He has a way of multiplying it beyond anything we could ever imagine.

7. Step Out in Faith

What has God been nudging you toward — for weeks, months, or even years — that you have been putting off because you don't feel qualified?

Beloved, it's time to stop telling God how big our problems are and start telling our problems how big our God is!

Possible next steps to consider:

- Say yes to serving on a ministry team at Misty Creek.
- Reach out to a neighbor and invite them to church.
- Have a faith conversation that feels scary.
- Answer a call to ministry or missions you've been running from.

Stop waiting. Start walking. Make yourself available. God will do the rest.

Notes

Use this space to write down what God is speaking to you today:

Discussion Questions

For personal reflection or group discussion

1. Where in your life have you felt too small, too weak, or too unqualified for God to use you? How does today's message speak to that feeling?

2. Peter failed publicly and dramatically — yet Jesus restored and recommissioned him. Is there a past failure that has caused you to believe you are disqualified? What does Scripture say about that?

3. The little boy simply made himself and his lunch available to Jesus. What do you have in your hands right now — however small it may seem — that you could offer to God?

4. What is one step of faith God has been calling you toward that you have been putting off? What is holding you back, and what would it look like to say yes this week?

5. Acts 4:13 says the key difference in Peter and John was that they had 'been with Jesus.' How would you describe your current rhythm of spending time with Jesus? What might need to change?

Key Takeaways

Main points to remember and apply

- 1.** God's pattern throughout Scripture is to choose the small, the weak, and the overlooked — so that all glory goes to Him alone.
- 2.** The ultimate Small But Mighty moment was the incarnation: God Himself entering the world as a baby in a manger in a small, overlooked town.
- 3.** God does not call the equipped — He equips the called. Your past failures do not disqualify you.
- 4.** Availability matters more than ability. When we place what little we have into the hands of Jesus, He multiplies it beyond what we can imagine.
- 5.** Stop waiting until you feel ready. The Kingdom advances when ordinary, available people take a step of faith and trust God to do the rest.

Additional Notes

- Song used for response: 'Made for More' by Josh Baldwin.
- This is Part 3 of the Small But Mighty series. Parts 1 and 2 covered Gideon (Judges 6) and David's Mighty Men (2 Samuel 23).
- Key theme verse for the series: Isaiah 55:8-9.