

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church

WORSHIP • SERVE • GROW

Having a Big Effect Starts with a Small Group

Mark 12:41-44

11/9/25

You have more of an effect than you think. We SEE with this widow that even the smallest of gifts can make big impact. Jesus points her out for all human history to SEE, on the Tuesday of Holy Week two days before He is executed for treason and blasphemy!

Where did she learn such self-sacrifice and faith? Having a Big Effect Starts with a Small Group. I would expect from her local synagogue when hearing stories of God providing for widows, orphans and immigrants. The stories of the Bible are life changing stories that the Holy Spirit works through to encourage and inform our faith! Having a Big Effect Starts with a Small Group.

Together, our faith creates a big impact. If you voted this week, you would have SEEN our church members either working the polls or campaigning outside of them. The Presbyterian faith teaches to be civically minded. Having a Big Effect Starts with a Small Group. Soon, you will SEE church members ringing the Salvation Army Bells to pay for gas, electric and rent bills of this community. Having a Big Effect Starts with a Small Group.

Our faith begins with a small group following Jesus. Jesus wants us to SEE this widow giving all she has and we do SEE it, claim it to be true, right and good. A small group of 12 disciples and handful of females who invested into Jesus' ministry create a big impact in human history.

Let's continue to hear the small group that became Christ's Church in Acts 2:37-47.

Your generosity enables Christ's Church. And Christ's Church begins with people responding to Jesus' message of abundance not scarcity. Faith not fear! Luke the physician and companion of Paul writes a Gospel and then follows it with the Book of Acts. Both are written about 50 years after Jesus' resurrection and ascension into Heaven. The ascension of Jesus to Heaven is most important to Luke emphasizing that Jesus lives and desires to live in us by Christ's Holy Spirit.

As Peter preaches, "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that sins maybe forgiven and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." The small group we call the Church revolves around Jesus living, our acknowledgement of our need for change, and then continuing Jesus' ministry empowered by Jesus' Holy Spirit. Acts emphasizes that when we share not only will there be enough but more than enough! And when we give thanks, the Lord will add to our numbers!

We have small groups here for you to join to continue Jesus' ministry. If you turn to the back of our bulletin, you will SEE a list of our church leaders. The Deacons organize small group volunteers and check in on homebound members. Our elders lead small groups that get stuff done. There are small ways to make big impacts in this church. Our small groups are flourishing! Care of Members create fun activities and hospitality to gather us together. Communications keep our website fresh which is our top evangelism tool and our emails

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church

WORSHIP • SERVE • GROW

flowing. Property inspires us to renovate this building to invite people to Christ. Affirmation ensures that our worship services affirm that we are children of God. Equipping nurtures the faith of Jesus Christ through education. Here is good news, Lori is going to emphasize in a moment that we should be thankful for a thriving PCUSA congregation. Our youth are making an impact in this community! Lori has over 30 children registered for MONDAY FUNDAY tomorrow! Having a Big Effect Starts with a Small Group.

The reason it is so important to invest at NPC is Faith is Sight! When people follow Jesus, they begin to SEE reality. When people have faith in Jesus, they begin to SEE right from wrong. Jesus' faith helps us SEE meaning, purpose and intention. Trusting Jesus is sight.

Let's go back to Jesus having the disciples SEE the widow being a living sacrifice. The widow gives her all for the work of God and Jesus points this out. But the story doesn't begin there.

The lead up to widow begins in Mark 10:17-31 when a rich man asks Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Remember last week when Jesus fed the 5000 people and they come looking for Jesus and ask, "What must we do to perform the works of God? (John 6:28)" Jesus responds, "Believe me, trust me, have faith in me." Jesus has a little different response to the rich man. Jesus tells him to follow the 10 commandments to find life, but the rich man claims he has been. Jesus looking at him, LOVED HIM, and said "Sell what you own, give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come and follow me." Abundance not scarcity. Faith not fear!

Then in Mark 10:35-45, James and John request to sit at the right and left hand of Jesus in heaven. And Jesus basically says that Heaven is not the power structure that we think on earth. Jesus followers will SEE the Truth, the Way and the Life when, "Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." Jesus is the widow! Jesus lives for the widow! Jesus lives for the immigrant!

Immediately before Jesus enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, he heals a blind beggar named Bartimaeus along the roadside near Jericho in Mark 10:46-52. You remember the story, Bartimaeus cries out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus asks Bartimaeus, who cannot SEE, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said, "My rabbi, let me SEE again." Jesus proclaims, "Go; your faith makes you SEE!"

Just before Jesus says, "SEE the widow putting in two pennies!" a religious leader asks, "Which commandment is first of all?" Mark 12:28 Jesus answers with the Shema, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the religious leader responded, "You are right, Rabbi, the Lord is one and there is no other; and to love the Lord with all the heart, and with all understanding, and with all strength, and to love neighbor as oneself-this is much more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church

WORSHIP • SERVE • GROW

SEES this answer, Jesus tells everyone whose listening, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God!” Faith is sight. You will SEE having a big effect starts with a small group.

If you want to SEE, turn to Jesus Christ. If you want to SEE, confess that your way is the wrong way. Claim and believe that Jesus’ Way is the right Way and you will SEE by the power of the Holy Spirit! You will SEE having a big effect starts with a small group.

Love,
Pastor Curtis

1. Abundance not scarcity! Faith not fear! Jesus teaches an abundance mentality. When we share even the smallest of gifts, there will not only be enough but more than enough.
2. Faith is sight! Be a living sacrifice. Romans 12:1
3. Confess sins to Christ and receive the Holy Spirit to save souls.