Ney Church of God

Talk It Over

OVERLOOKED — Week 6

Don't Despise the Day of Small Things

Scripture: Zechariah 4:1–14

Key Takeaway: Never underestimate what God can accomplish through your small, faithful beginnings.

Opening Question

What is something in your life that started small but eventually became something significant? What helped it grow?

Read Zechariah 4:1–14: As you read, pay attention to the lampstand, the olive trees, God's message to Zerubbabel, and the question in verse 10: "Who dares despise the day of small things?"

Discussion Questions

1. Understanding the Passage

In verses 1–5, Zechariah sees a vision but doesn't understand what he is seeing. Why do you think God sometimes reveals things to us that we don't immediately understand? How should we respond when we don't have the whole picture?

2. Depending on God's Spirit — Verses 6–7

God tells Zerubbabel, "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit." What does this teach us about the source of our strength? How can we distinguish between faithfully doing our part and depending on our own abilities to accomplish everything?

3. Trusting God to Finish the Work — Verses 8–10

God promises that the hands that laid the temple's foundation will also complete it. Why might the people have been tempted to become discouraged by their progress? What are some ways we can become discouraged when our faith, service, or ministry doesn't seem to be producing results?

4. Don't Despise Small Beginnings — Verse 10

Why are we often more impressed by big accomplishments than small, faithful steps? How might this attitude affect the way we view our own contributions or the contributions of others in the church?

5. The Lampstand and the Olive Trees — Verses 1–5, 11–14

The vision includes olive trees supplying oil to the lampstand, and the chapter ends by identifying two figures as "the two who are anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth." What does the vision, together with God's message in verse 6, teach us about the importance of God's provision rather than relying solely on human effort? What questions do you still have about this vision?

6. Putting It into Practice

Think about your spiritual growth, relationships, prayers, or opportunities to serve. Where are you tempted to believe that what you're doing is too small to matter? What is one faithful step you can take this week, trusting God with the results?

Closing Reflection

Read Zechariah 4:10 one more time. The work wasn't finished, and the progress may not have looked impressive, but God challenged His people not to despise the day of small things.

Remember: You don't have to see the whole picture, have every ability, or see immediate results to take the next faithful step.

Prayer

Ask God to help your group trust His Spirit rather than relying only on its own strength. Pray for those who feel discouraged by slow progress, those who are taking small steps in their faith, and those who are faithfully serving without seeing the results they hoped for. Ask God to help each person remain faithful and trust Him with what comes next.