



REFLECTIONS

November 28, 2010

Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

James 2:5-6

Little People

Gavroche was just not big enough to fight. He was too small to make a difference in the battle, but he knew that he was just the right size to overhear secrets of the enemy without being noticed. *“This only goes to show what little people can do!”* he sang with a bounce in his voice, and he was proud of it too. He sang on, *“Little people know when little people fight, we may look like easy pickings but we got some bite. So never kick a dog because he’s just a pup. We’ll fight like twenty armies and we won’t give up.”*

Like the role in the musical play, *Les Miserables*, Gavroche’s character is too small in stature to gain a position in the army. But neither his small stature nor his lack of position deterred him from doing what he could. He was as tenacious for the cause and as committed to the quest for victory as any soldier on the front lines, but his contribution to the battle was not with his brawn. Rather, because he was small and went unnoticed, he overheard secret information that uncovered a deceptive plan.

Little people, those poor in the eyes of the world, may never gain positions of prominence, but the roles they play make a big difference. It was five loaves and two fishes from the lunch pail of a small boy that fed 5,000 hungry people. It was the tenacity of a tiny man named Zacchaeus who climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus that earned him a dinner invitation with our Lord. It was a woman, unclean from incessant bleeding, who touched Jesus’ robe and became a model of faith. And with a gift of but two pence a poor widow set an example for generosity.

Resourcefulness is not expected from children; tenacity from the small; faith from the suffering; or generosity from the poor. Yet what little people do sometimes makes them the heroes of the wars we fight. Often they are the ones that become models of resourcefulness, tenacity, faith, and generosity. And sometimes they even save the day.

In the musical play, Gavroche was unable to save the day for his friends, but he knew what little people can do—and so do we. In our meagerness, what we do makes a big difference to God.

With small amounts, God does great things.

“You are the light of the world.”

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