

THE HIGH PLAINS PREACHER

Welcome to the High Plains Preacher, stories about the Bible, high wind, fast horses, lack of moisture and other elements of life in the Texas Panhandle.

Small Things

by Fr. Jim Schmitmeyer

Have you ever noticed the number of times Jesus preached about small things? Mustard seeds; flowers of the field; the birds in the air; small coins and grains of wheat?

Last week I was speaking with a friend of mine—I'll call him Mike—who watches too much news on the TV and this makes him feel depressed.

I reminded him that our country is bigger than the big egos and the big opinions of the big shots on TV. "Mike," I said, "You got to look at the small picture. Do you have any idea of how much good is accomplished each day all across this country by people just like you?"

Of course, in preaching to Mike, I was also preaching to myself because, in a world of big money and big media, we need to remember the importance of small things, like loving your family, putting others above yourself and putting in an honest day's work for an honest day's pay.

Small things. Like fortitude. Self-sacrifice. And faith in God. These small things make a big difference.

Back in the 1840's, the French philosopher, Alexis D'Tocqueville, toured the new democracy call the United States of America and, after his journey across our land, he came to the conclusion that "America is great...because America is good." In other words, don't discount the impact of small people living according to the Commandments of God.

Recently, the Washington Post reported that revenue ranging from the Sunday collection place, charity contributions and the healing work of religious hospitals contribute more to the US economy than the revenue of Apple, Facebook and Google combined.

Jesus didn't waste his time preaching to Roman Senators or Judean Governors. Rather, preached the Kingdom of God to fishermen, housewives, shepherds and farmhands.

Today, he's preaching to us. That means he's banking on us. To take care of our corner of the field. To take care of it with love. To cultivate and care for it ...with all the care we can muster.