



North Shore
**Congregational
Church**
FOX POINT, WI

From the Pulpit...

“Dream Small”

Rev. Dr. Martin W. Hall – Preaching

I Samuel 17: 41-45, 48-50

June 10, 2018

It was probably a month and a half ago, or so, that I was sitting in the car and the radio was tuned to The Message, which is a Christian music station on satellite radio. The sound was muted because the kids were talking to me at the time, but the little display screen on the dashboard showed the name of the song that was playing, ‘Dream Small.’ In a moment I was taken by that title. I turned it up right away, caught the tail end of the song, went home that night to read the lyrics more fully, and have been absorbed by the notion ever since!

We are a society of big. Dream big! Go for the gusto! Reach of the stars! We are a culture of splendid visions and grand designs. We are a people who put value in the notion of reaching for the majestic and striving for the remarkable. And, there’s nothing wrong with that. Working hard for dreams is a good thing. Hoping to make great things of what God has given us is a good thing. But I think, sometimes, our society of the big, especially when it comes to faith, causes to miss out on the value of the small.

Even in faith, it tends to be the grand heroes, the big stories, the unimaginable moments, that get our attention. But, the truth is that not every hero in the Bible measures up to the lofty stature of Abraham, Joseph, Peter and Paul. And, the truth is that not every heroic action in the story of our faith reaches the lore of Noah building the ark or Moses coming down the mountain with the Ten Commandments. No, the truth is that a good portion of the story of our faith is composed by those who took their moment, their gift, their opportunity and allowed that one small thing to become a great work of God, through God.

- It’s the boy in the field with a couple of fish and a few loaves of bread that God turned into enough to feed thousands.
- It’s the moment Philipp took to follow the lead of the Spirit to the side of a man in need of faith – a moment that changed that man’s life forever.
- And, yes, it’s the pipsqueak little brother with a stone in his pocket who had the faith to trust in what God could do, who in that faith struck down the mighty Philistine, and who through that faith became the greatest king in the history of the people of Israel.

In a world that tells us to dream big, our faith reminds to, sometimes, dream small. In a world that drives us to reach for the stars, our faith reminds us to claim the moment with which we are

presented and allow God to carry us to the heavens. In a world that challenges us to set our sights on lofty places, our faith reminds us to set our sights on God and to allow God to make the most of the service we bring.

That's the promise, the joy, and the wonder that we celebrate today.

- Taking an hour to share the joy of faith with the children of our church.
- Using a gift of musical talent to uplift the worship of our fellowship.
- Swinging a hammer or fixing a roof to take to the love of Christ to those outside of our church.
- Serving on a board, helping with a committee, reaching out to a member in a time of struggle, weddings, funerals, baptisms, membership, book groups, Bible studies, youth programs, fellowship, the list goes on and on and on...

...and nearly everything that happens in the life of this church – nearly every life that is touched through the ministries of this church – happens through the compilation of our members taking those moments, those talents, those gifts, those opportunities and allowing God to amplify them into the lofty places we strive to reach.

So, if you get a chance at some point this summer, look up this song by Josh Wilson. It may or may not be your cup of tea, musically, but it's an interesting consideration in a world that constantly tells to dream big. And, today, tomorrow, in the weeks ahead – as we rejoice in the ministries of this church today and as our lives carry us into so many places in the summer months before us – set our culture's focus on loftiness aside, and dream small. Be open to that thing, that moment, that piece you can play in the story that God is writing, and then watch as our small dreams, our single moments, our unique gifts, become those grand designs by means of the very glory and grace of God at work through us.