

Luke 8: Sweat the Small Stuff

Luke 8:1-3

1. Jesus had a very limited ministry, verses 1-3.

- ✓ This is a general summary of what Jesus did day in and day out, and we get these sprinkled in every so often between these personal encounters and teachings that happened as He went about this routine.
 - ✓ Traveling into tiny villages, preaching, with 12 nobodies being supported by a handful of women and others. Not exactly what you would call a presidential campaign.
 - ✓ Not at all the way we would do it, but it is the way God did it and we need to learn a critical lesson from it. You take care of the depth of your ministry, the small stuff, and God will take care of the breadth of your ministry, the big stuff.
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2. Limited in Scope.

- ✓ Limited to the land of Israel; He didn't go anywhere else.

3. Limited in People.

- ✓ Limited to the people of Israel. When He sent out His disciples 2 by 2 He said **Matthew 10:5-6**
 - ✓ He majored in the region of Galilee which was an obscure area.
 - ✓ Limited to only certain people in Israel; **Luke 5:32**; not the leaders, influencers, and intelligencia.
 - ✓ He didn't get in with the rich and famous; we have the allusion that somehow the spread of the gospel is dependent upon that; it couldn't be further from the truth.
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4. Limited in Message.

- ✓ Limited to one primary message, the kingdom of God, **Matthew 4:17; John 3:3**,
 - ✓ He was limited to one people, ministry, message, and all from one book.
 - ✓ He did it according to the Father's will, **John 5:30, John 4:34**.
 - ✓ He did it according to the Father's timing, **John 7:30, 8:20, John 7:3-6**.
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5. Lessons to Learn; Concentration Leads to Multiplication.

- ✓ Jesus concentrated on the place God put Him, the time God gave Him, the Message God had for Him, and the people God gave Him. He did that and God took care of the multiplication of those things.
 - ✓ Limit yourself in scope. We can be anywhere; commit yourself to a place and people and a mission of a local church.
 - ✓ Limit yourself in people. Jesus picked twelve guys and poured Himself into them, and they turned the world on its ear.
 - ✓ They hated those messages, so they demonized the messengers.
 - ✓ Somehow we think that unless it's a number of people that it's not important, but Jesus died for the individual **John 3:16** "whosoever"
 - ✓ Grab a few people and invest yourself in them, **2nd Timothy 2:2 4**.
 - ✓ Generations of investing and what has continued until now its spread over the whole earth.
 - ✓ The principle is straight from Jesus' ministry: "Invest in a few, you change the world." **Verse 48** The greatest words we will ever hear.
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- ✓ **Verses 49-50;** Faith is the only thing that ever will save anybody; it's not enough to know He's the Savior or call Him Lord, you have to place your entire faith in Him to save you and forgive you.
 - ✓ All of His followers went into a state of depression when Jesus died; they should have been rejoicing due primarily to popular influences. Think about how powerful the influence of popular thought was when Jesus tells His disciples He's going to die; Peter rebukes Him!
 - ✓ We have lots of inaccurate popular influences in Christian culture today promising health, wealth, property, and success; there are no promises in the Scriptures to that effect. People who preach and teach that stuff are programming people for doubt.
 - ✓ You have a view of God's plan that isn't God's plan? You will be infected with doubt sooner or later. Take your doubts to the Savior; quench your doubts with the truth.
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