

The Significance Trap

"As you go into the city, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. At the house he enters, say to the owner, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?' He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up."
Jesus Christ | Mark 14:13–15 (NLT)

Ever heard of them?

The man carrying the pitcher?

How about the person who prepared the Passover meal?

Or the owner of the donkey's colt Jesus rode into Jerusalem?

These nameless people did seemingly ordinary things. Yet clearly, each played a significant role in the events leading to Jesus' crucifixion.

I once heard someone ask, "Who was more important—Billy Graham or

Billy Graham's Sunday school teacher?"

Makes you think!

I wonder if the owner of the colt ever told his friends, "Jesus rode my donkey!" Did the person who prepared the meal ever say, "Jesus had his last meal at my house"?

Or did they brush it off, *No big deal. Other people are doing much more important things than I am,* not realizing the significance of what they'd done.

… and just like that we fall into the Significance Trap.

Reflect: **Am I caught in the Significance Trap?**

Who doesn't want their life to matter?

Most of us have a desire to make a difference—to do something impactful with the years God has given us. There's nothing inherently wrong with this.

But our desire for significance can become a trap.

We live in a world that celebrates big accomplishments, visible influence and measurable impact. We are quick to compare our lives with others and quietly conclude that our contribution doesn't measure up, often prompting us to use inflating words to pump up ourselves up.

Or we swing toward false humility: *What I'm doing isn't really important but look at what God's doing through **them**!*

But Scripture paints a different picture.

When Mary poured expensive perfume over Jesus, some criticized her action as wasteful.

“Leave her alone. Why criticize her for doing such a good thing to me?... She has done what she could...” Jesus Christ (Mark 14:6, 8)

Jesus didn't. He elevated it.

Mary simply did what she could—and Jesus said her act would be remembered wherever the Good News was preached.

Then there’s Paul.

He acknowledged the significance of his work:

“Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more!” (2 Corinthians 11:23)
He knew it mattered.

Yet he also knew that the significance belonged ultimately to Jesus, not himself:

“If I must boast, I would rather boast about the things that show how weak I am.” (2 Corinthians 11:30)

Asking yourself “Is my life significant?” is a trap.

Consider: **The better question is “Who determines my life’s significance?”**

My years of coaching have convinced me that this struggle is common.

I often meet Followers who sense God has a Mission for them, yet they hesitate because it doesn't seem significant enough.

Surely there must be something bigger.
Surely God wants me to do something more important.
What difference could this really make?

But look at the people surrounding Jesus in those final days.

One person carried a pitcher.
One prepared a room.
One loaned a colt.
Mary poured perfume.
And, later, Paul traveled, preached, suffered as he planted churches.

Different people. Different assignments. Different levels of visibility.

Yet all were significant parts of the same Kingdom story.

Paul provides clarity:
"In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary." (1 Corinthians 12:22)

Your Mission isn't valuable because it looks impressive.
It's valuable because **God gives it to you.**

What if the owner of the colt had said, "That's too small a thing for me to bother with"?

What if the person who prepared the room had decided that somebody else could do it?
What if Mary had calculated the practical value of her perfume rather than loving Jesus?
What if Paul had decided his suffering wasn't worth it?
We don't get to see the Kingdom-wide benefits of our obedience—that's God's business.

Imagine: **Simply responding to Jesus' leading.**

Mary, Paul, the owner of the colt, and the person who prepared the room had something in common.

They weren't trying to become significant.

They were simply responding to Jesus's leading.

Their significance was embedded in Jesus' Mission—his Kingdom story.

And so is yours.

Your Mission isn't competing with Jesus' Mission. It is a derivative of it—your particular way of participating in what Jesus is doing in the world.

So don't spend your life trying to be significant.
Instead, simply make yourself available to **be used significantly by God**.

Do what he puts in front of you.
Do it faithfully.

Do it with love.
And let God determine the impact.

You may never know how significant your obedience becomes in his Kingdom story.

But then again, neither did the man carrying the pitcher.
Or the person who prepared the meal.
Or the owner of the colt.
They simply did what was asked.

Your Mission may look small to you. It may look small to the world.
But if Jesus has given it to you, don't overstate or underestimate it.
Stay out of…

The Significance Trap.

Get off the grid and ask these questions

Coach's Questions:

- **Reflect:** *What behaviors do I have that show I've fallen into the Significance Trap?*
- **Ask:** *How will knowing that Jesus determines my life's significance change my thinking?*
- **Challenge:** Catch yourself in the act of either trying to increase your significance or belittle it.
- Further insights: Unlock Your Life; Guard Your Roof!
- Don't know my Mission—Start here!

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

I Am Useful

“So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.”

The Apostle Paul | 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NLT)

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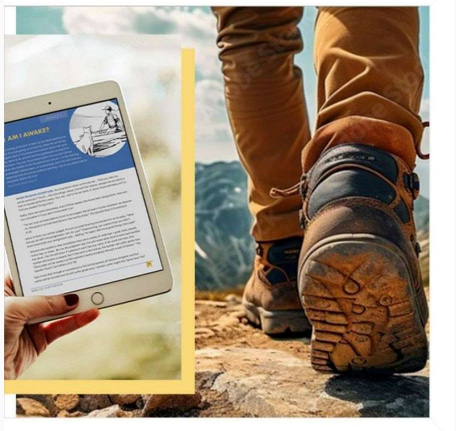
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