

was asked if he was not going to send his son to college. "No," said he; "God forbid that I should lay out five thousand dollars on a ten-cent boy!" And I do not know but there are ten-cent boys; but even if there are, there is the parable of the talents that is in point. The man with the one talent could have doubled his capital as well as the man with five. Because he could do so little he failed to do what he might. "Neglect not the gift that is in thee," pertains as well to the least gifted as to the most gifted; and we can never tell how far even a small gift may reach, if God's providence takes care of it and God's energy gets into it. A small man goes a great way with God behind him. Seven loaves, with Christ back of them, fed eight thousand people.

"What hast thou in the house? Thine handmaid hath not anything in the house, save a pot of oil;" and that single oil-pot, with God in it to multiply its contents, saved the woman and preserved to her her sons. And, my young friend, it really does not make so much difference after all whether there is much in you, or little, if only you succeed in getting that little underneath God's blessing and in the drift of His plans and purposes. A hundred-pound ball lying on the ground is a dead and hopeless affair, but, loaded inside of a piece of Essen ordnance, and the capacities of a young earthquake are in it. "What hast thou in the house?"

You need to have some faith in yourself. There are times when the only appropriate place for a man is on his knees, beating his breast. There are other times when he looks better erect. When Ezekiel was lying upon his face, the heavenly voice said unto him: "Son of man, *stand upon thy feet* and I will speak unto thee." Find the best thing that is in you, and have faith in it; have faith in the power of God to multiply its effectiveness a thousand-fold; then go into the world with it, and your success is a foregone conclusion.

Then, in regard to Christian effort in its more general scope: what is there in

you? What special genius, talent, faculty, have you, that God can work through to the enrichment of your times and the helping of men? Perhaps you can talk to effect: perhaps you are most eloquent when you say least. Perhaps you have a genius for making money. It may be that there is nothing in you quite so effective as the steady pressure which you exert upon men around you by your constancy of holy purpose and blameless integrity. Do not slip out of your privileges and duties as a Christian by making inventories of what you cannot do. Thrust your hand into the corn-crib to find what there *is* there—not what there is *not* there. Perhaps you have *only* a talent for little things. Well, remember the one oil-pot. Remember Dorcas, who, after eighteen hundred years, is clothing the world still. Peter raised her from the dead, and she has not died since. Think how many church treasuries have been filled with the widow's two mites. Reflect upon it, that, clear across the Atlantic to this late day has floated the perfume from the ointment poured from the alabaster cruse upon the Lord's feet. And who was the unnamed woman that cooked the bread, and the unnamed man that caught the fish that fed the multitude then, and has been feeding larger multitudes ever since?

Besides this, the relation of Elisha's question to the matter of truth-seeking and truth-preaching. Our minds are tired and our hearts are aching every day in their longing for a fuller knowledge of the truth of God. And Elisha's question comes to us full of momentous comfort, "What hast thou in the house?" What does that mean? Why, it means that we have some truth now in store, in stock; and it means a good deal beside that. It means that what truth we have now, if the inspirations of the Holy Ghost lodge in it, will grow into more. There is a germ-power in an idea. Some of the mind of God is in it. It is a live thing; it will keep getting outside of its own circumference. It is curious to watch the inner crowding and pushing and budding of an opinion