

Fruit, Sticks, and other “Little Things”

Ponder: How important are little things?

Scripture: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

In Eden, it was simply fruit. Of course, God said not to eat one particular kind (Genesis 2:16), but who’s going to get all worked up over a piece of fruit? Is fruit really that important to God? You might want to check with Adam and Eve on that; they have first-hand experience. But don’t look for them in Eden. It seems God expelled them from that paradise – something about eating forbidden fruit!

In the wilderness it was sticks. Yes, God told Israel not to perform ordinary labor on the seventh day of the week (Exodus 31:12-17). But who’s going to make an issue over gathering a few sticks? Are sticks really that important to God? We could ask the man in Numbers 15:32-36, if only we could reach him under that pile of stones!

Some today are claiming that gender roles, instrumental music in worship, and communion on the first day of the week, are “non-issues.” Just tell the lost about Jesus and feed the hungry; not much else matters, or so we are told.

Jesus certainly taught that some matters are weightier than others (Matthew 23:23). He denounced his critics who would “strain out a gnat and swallow a camel” (v. 24). Corrupting the worship of God and disregarding His instructions regarding gender roles, however, can hardly be classified as “gnat” issues! God’s will regarding the roles of men and women is based on the order of creation (1 Timothy 2:12-24); and worship throughout both testaments has always been a crucial matter where reverence for God precludes any tampering.

Place a frog in a pan of water over a low flame. The poor frog doesn’t even notice the water warming ever-so-slowly. Long before he catches on . . . he’s dead!

Little things matter.