

*Unknown,  
But Well-Known  
in Heaven*

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*All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.*

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Introduction</i> .....	5
<i>Chapter 1</i> .....	7
<i>NO SMALL JOBS IN GOD'S MIND</i>	
<i>Chapter 2</i> .....	12
<i>ORDINARY PEOPLE DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS</i>	
<i>Chapter 3</i> .....	18
<i>SEEING THE NEEDS</i>	
<i>Chapter 4</i> .....	23
<i>THE POOR MAKE MANY RICH</i>	
<i>CONCLUSION</i> .....	30



## INTRODUCTION

“As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

“As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

“O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged” (2 Corinthians 6:8-11).

“As unknown, and yet well known....” This is a beautiful statement of truth from God’s mind. Here the Word of God is saying that many people are unknown—people who work quietly for God—and yet they are well known in heaven.

Have you ever noticed in the Bible how Jesus Christ takes unknown people—people who were never popular, never well known upon the earth—and makes them well known by His Word? Well known to us, their names or their stories were written in the Word and have

remained known throughout history. These people may have been unknown in their day, but now, after many years, they have become very well known.

Even in our midst today, many people are making the headlines in heaven whose names will never hit the papers on the earth—unknown men and women in the corporate Body of Jesus Christ making headlines in the eternal records of heaven. We thank God for every one of them, as the Scriptures teach us the value of what they are doing for God behind the scenes.

I have written this booklet for you to consider such people. I know quite a few people who are unknown by the world's standards yet well known in the mind of God. In the following pages, I want to introduce you to some of those folks. Let their testimonies encourage you in every godly endeavor, and do not despise the day of small things (Zechariah 4:10).

## *Chapter One*

# NO SMALL JOBS IN GOD'S MIND

“And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman’s wife.

“And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy” (2 Kings 5:2-3).

God took a little maid and used her in the ministry of Elisha. She served the mistress of Naaman, the king of Syria who had leprosy and was destined to die. A little maid, completely unknown, and she was doing work for the mistress of Naaman.

One day this little unknown maid said to her mistress, “There is a prophet in Israel. His name is Elisha. This prophet would heal your king.”

Now imagine the part that she played in that chain of circumstances—a little, unknown maid.

No one knew anything about her. She was hid away somewhere, but she was a little witness for Jesus Christ.

There is no small work in the Kingdom of God. Anyone who gives a cup of cold water in Jesus' name is just as important as the one who is preaching to fifty thousand people. A pastor faithfully serving God with eight people and doing his best to sow the seed through the Holy Spirit is just as big in God's eyes as someone who has the biggest church in the United States.

There is no such thing as a "greater" work if you are Spirit-filled, you love God, and you are growing in grace and knowledge, serving Jesus for the glory of God and walking in the Spirit the best you understand. When you fail, you rebound. The best you know how, you do all to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). With all your heart, you live a holy life unto Him (Colossians 3:23).

### *Quality, Not Quantity*

Quantity is not an issue with God. The thing that really counts is quality. God wants to know this: Are you doing what you are doing in the power and nature of Jesus Christ?

This little maid had a major role to play. In



her community she was just a little, unknown maid, but in heaven she was well known. The saints in Paradise, who had gone on before, knew her. That little maid was known among the angels of God. She was unknown yet she is well known. And what a thrill it will be to meet her when we get to heaven!

In God's economy, in God's time, many unknown people continually make eternal headlines of heaven. They are unknown people who, the Word of God says, are well known.

### *Consider Andrew*

"One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

"He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ" (John 1:40-41).

A good example is Andrew. He was with John and another disciple. Then he heard that Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, was coming, so Andrew went to visit Him. But first, he found his brother Simon, and immediately, "he brought him to Jesus." Andrew went after and won his brother Simon. Andrew was unknown, in terms

of being a powerful personality, but in heaven he was well known, and he won his brother, whom Jesus called Peter.

Most of us realize that Andrew never was known to be the preacher that Peter was. He never got into the situations that Peter did. He was not as impulsive, and he was the silent type of servant of God. Still, though Andrew was unknown, he was very well known in heaven.

### *The Samaritan*

“And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

“And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

“But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

“And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

“And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and what-

soever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

“Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

“And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise” (Luke 10:30-37).

Oh, they knew this Samaritan in heaven. Here the priest came down, and that man went from Jericho to Jerusalem, and he was going from Jerusalem right into Jericho. He was left half-dead and wounded by thieves. The priest went by, the Levite went by (verse 32), and then the good Samaritan, half-Jew and half-Gentile, came along.

The Word of God says that he stopped and helped the man and took him to an inn. While he was rejected by all, he showed much love for this individual. The Samaritan was unknown, “despised” by both Jew and Gentile, but he was well known in heaven.

## *Chapter Two*

# ORDINARY PEOPLE DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS

How many in churches today are unknown to the world but are very well known in heaven?

I was thinking of an old story about a medical doctor in Jack Hyles church in Hammond, Indiana. This doctor was planning to build a new home that would cost forty-five thousand dollars—a big price for a home in those days. He was living in a home valued at ten thousand dollars, according to Jack Hyles.

The man had been through his training and was now an established physician, so he decided to build a home for his wife and family after many years of study and hard work while he also served God diligently. Then one night, the young doctor was praying and God told him that he did not need to have a new home.

So that doctor took the money (around twenty-thousand dollars that he had saved for

the new home) and he spent fifteen thousand to help build a Christian school. He put the other five thousand into an education fund to help children come to the school. After eleven years of practice, he and his wife still lived in the ten-thousand-dollar home. Jack Hyles said that the doctor came up quietly in a prayer meeting and told him of his decision.

Dr. Hyles wept and said, "I realized then that what makes a church like ours is people like that. I've got people all over this congregation just like them. They give sacrificially and serve diligently without a single question. They will go without, again and again, to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

This doctor's name never reached the daily newspaper and certainly he did not want it to. He is unknown on earth, but he is very well known in heaven. He is well known where it counts.

### *Giving Nobodies a Home*

I remember a home in Portland, Maine, where a woman had seventeen foster children. These children were physically and mentally handicapped—children with all manner of medical and emotional difficulties.

I used to think to myself, “Seventeen children? How in the Lord’s name does she ever take care of seventeen children with all those challenges? How does she do it? And what would motivate a woman to take care of seventeen children like that?”

Beyond that, she gives every month and always sends me beautiful letters. After talking with her for five minutes, I found out what motivated her to do it.

She said, “I can’t offer much to this world, but there is one thing I can do. I can help kids that will never have a chance. I just take on those who have the needs, the kids that nobody in the world wants.

“I take them in. Because of physical exhaustion, day-in and day-out, I pray to get strength one moment at a time in order to live.”

She wept as she talked with us and said, “It is such a rewarding experience to be able to give them a home.”

What a beautiful thing it is. She is an unknown person. No one knows her in Portland, except for a very few people. No one knows her, but as a born-again believer she is well-known in heaven. Why? Because she has a ministry to people that no one else wants—a real first-class,

godly ministry to children that otherwise would have been rejected.

Seventeen of them. There is no higher calling. She is a fantastic woman who is unknown yet well known in heaven.

How many unknown people are like that?

### *Choosing with God*

I will never forget the story of a couple in Putnam, Connecticut where we had a week of meetings. They went down to adopt a child and they had a choice. First, they went to see a beautiful baby, and they were going to choose that baby. But then, the Holy Spirit stopped this man and his wife and said, "No." They went over to another baby that was blind and had a birthmark completely over his chin and down the left side of his face. God said, "That's the baby I want you to take."

The husband looked at his wife, and the wife looked at her husband and they knew. They knew God's choice. They made arrangements and took the baby home, a blind baby with a large birthmark on the lower chin and the left cheek.

That was an unknown act. Few will ever hear about that. That story will never make the

daily paper, but it is so well known in heaven. That act of love made the angels shout. It made Jesus Christ rejoice. They were not selfish. They were not greedy. They were not living in their old natures. They were not thinking of themselves. They were able to go to the Cross and respond to the leading of God to adopt and to love this child as their very own.

Unknown people, unknown to the earth—completely unknown and yet so very well known in heaven.

### *Special People Meet Special Needs*

I was thinking of some of the people in our own ministry. I know of one family that gave seventy-five dollars in the offering, and I know that they could not afford it. They had received a check in the mail for one hundred and ten dollars that they didn't know was coming. They heard that there was a special need. I know they do not own things that you have in your home. Honestly, they could have used the money for bills. Yet, they did this lovingly for Jesus Christ. They are unknown to you.

They will never be known to you. Their names will never be given. But I believe that when they wrote out that check, angels rejoiced



along with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Peter, John, James, and Paul and all the saints that have been made perfect (Hebrews 12:22-23). I know they rejoiced and praised God, because this was an unknown event, yet it was well known in heaven. What these folks did, they did unto the Lord, and they did it unto all of those who are in heaven. It was unknown to many of us, and it will be kept that way, but it is well known in heaven.

### *Chapter Three*

## SEEING THE NEEDS

“And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.

“And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.

“And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.

“And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.

“And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.

“And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the

way" (Mark 10:47-52).

Blind Bartimaeus was unknown to that multitude. That multitude following Jesus Christ through Jericho did not have any use for this blind beggar. They did not care for him. He was an unknown man, but with Jesus Christ he was well known. Jesus Christ stood still because the blind man had a need and stopped the crowd and stopped the people that were following Him that day.

"What is your need?" the Lord asked.

"That I might have my sight," the blind man said.

"Okay, then you have received it. Your faith has made you whole."

He was unknown, but oh, he was well known with Jesus Christ. One day there was a woman caught in adultery (John 8), and a crowd gathered to stone her after the pharisaical law of the Old Testament. But immediately Jesus Christ intervened because they tried to trap Him. And He said, "Let him that is without sin cast the first stone."

And from the eldest to the youngest the crowd disappeared. Finally, it was just the woman and Jesus. He looked into her eyes and said, "Who is he that condemns you?"

And she said, "No man, Lord."

"Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more."

Jesus forgave her. She was an unknown wicked sinner, but she was well known by the Savior. She had a witness. She had a problem. She had something that was troubling her. Perhaps it was her heredity. Perhaps it was her environment, but basically it was because of her sin nature that she gave in to temptation.

She was unknown with regard to her need, but she was well known with Jesus Christ. She was forgiven. She was no longer embarrassed, no longer ashamed of her past. Forgiveness came in, along with a new heart, a new life, a new love, a new purpose, and a new grace.

### *Giving All That You Have*

A little boy had five loaves and two fishes (John 6:9). He was an unknown little boy, and the multitude was hungry. The five thousand with children were very hungry, and at Philip's request, he took the five loaves and two fishes and brought them to Jesus. He was an unknown little fellow, but Jesus took the five loaves and two fishes and prayed, and the boy's lunch multiplied into enough to feed the five thousand

plus. This little lad was unknown, but he was well known to Jesus, well known in heaven, just for giving up his lunch.

Little children, I want you to know that Jesus was a child once, and everything you do is well known to Him. He loves you personally. He does care. You may be overlooked by adults but Jesus cares, and He loves you very deeply.

You are unknown as you pray. You are unknown as you come and make your requests in childlike fashion. But with Jesus Christ you are well known. He says, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, for such is the Kingdom of God." You are well known, and God loves you deeply.

Teenagers, many people avoid you because of some of your habits, because of some of the things that you have done, and because of their own preoccupation with details. God's people may not love you the way they ought to and the way you think they should. Perhaps, many times, you are unknown in fellowships, and you feel isolated and parched.

But I want you to know that Jesus Christ was a teenager, and He knows you well. You are well known to the Creator, and He loves you. He was tested in every point just as you are. He

was tempted with the same temptations you face. It may be hard for you to believe that He was tempted at every point, but Hebrews 4:15-16 says He was, yet Jesus lived without sin.

Perhaps, you feel unknown, but you are well known with Him. He loves and calls you by name. He has bottled your tears (Psalm 56:4). He calls out to you and says, “Cast all your cares on Me because I care for you” (see 1 Peter 5:7).

Maybe you have rebelled and reacted and done wrong things and entered into sin, and you feel detached from the Body of Christ—detached in your prayers, detached from reality. You feel that you just don’t count, and you feel like you are one of God’s unknown, but you are well known. Everything about you is well known.

Whether you are young or old, Jesus has been through every single thing that you and I have been through. You, too, are well known tonight. Your need is well known. Your desire is well known. Every heartache is well known by Jesus Christ, who is also your Provider, your help, your answer in every situation.

## *Chapter Four*

# THE POOR MAKE MANY RICH

The Word of God goes on to say in 2 Corinthians 6:9, "...As dying, and, behold, we live." Every time we enter into Christ's death and crucifixion and burial, we enter into His resurrection life and ascension. "As dying, yet behold we live; as chastened, and not killed; As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing."

I went up to a certain woman and said, "Why is it that you always cry in church services? Are you sad?"

She said, "Yes, but I'm rejoicing."

I said, "Why do tears always come?"

She said, "I feel very sad yet very happy."

I said, "Even when souls get saved you cry."

She said, "I'm sad because of God's love but I'm so happy."

I said, "When somebody goes home to be with the Lord you cry."

She said, "I'm sad, but I'm so happy."

I understand what she means. Many times when the power of God comes, our hearts are burdened for people. We have a tremendous constraint of love to help them, to minister to them, yet inside there is always a deep rejoicing. We wait for any moment to praise God, to sing, just to be happy in Him. We are sorrowful, yet we are always rejoicing. We are as poor yet making many rich, seeking first the Kingdom of God—it is a paradox with God's people.

So many counted as poor in this world share a message that sends people to heaven. They are poor by the world's estimation, and yet they are making many rich, sharing Jesus Christ. It is a beautiful thing because it is exactly what the Lord Jesus Christ teaches about every one of His disciples.

Many are unknown who are poor, and yet they make many rich. They have nothing yet they possess all things. They have died to their own rights, and behold, they are living. There are many in our congregation who do hidden things. If we started mentioning names and telling you some of the things that some of them have done, we would leave out so many that it would not be fair.

I know that I could call upon at least a cou-



ple of hundred people tonight. And I know if I said, “We have this need, and Jesus has this need,” that in an “unknown” manner, they would do everything they could, because they are unknown and they simply do as Jesus Christ asks them to do.

That is the reason our services are always full. That is the reason we have more than one hundred ministries that are in the highways and byways—outreaches to every segment of society. That is why we are going out across America and throughout the world. That is why we are going on with Christian day school and our Bible college programs. That is why we are able to do it. We have some unknown people in our church that are just plain unknown, yet they are well known with God.

God can trust people who are unknown as they accept His grace. He can trust them to minister. He can trust them to love. He can trust them to pray. He can trust them to lay down their lives. Every time I look at them, it makes me fill up with tears and with great rejoicing. There are many unknowns. Many are never up on the platform.

Some of them will never sing a solo. Some of them never do a single thing to bring attention

to themselves. Some of them never testify the way that others do. And yet, they are well known. They are unknown, dedicated people, and they want to live as unto Jesus Christ. They are poor but they make many rich. They have nothing, but they possess all things. The beautiful thing is that the people who have the least seem to always be willing to do the most, without any question.

### *Enlarged Hearts*

How precious it is that Paul said, "Our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged" (2 Corinthians 6:11). He said, "Listen, we are disciples. We are the offscouring and the filth of the earth. We are hated and rejected and persecuted by men. We have been lied about and robbed and cheated and maligned and criticized and judged. And yet, though having nothing, we possess all things."

As God continues to move in our revival, as the sensitivity of the Holy Spirit enlarges our hearts, as the love of God grows with intensity, as the power of the Holy Spirit continues, we will need to have a crowd of unknown people who are hid with Christ in God. Few people ever put soul-winning, prayer, loving the breth-

ren, and Jesus Christ ahead of life itself.

I have been meeting with people frequently about plans for the future, and I know what God wants. I know there are still hundreds and thousands that we ought to reach through this ministry, complementing the other great ministries of God in America. And I know the only kind of people that God can use are the unknown people.

When that couple saw the blind baby with a birthmark on the chin and both of them looked in each other's eyes, weeping, the husband said, "Honey, he's the one." And she said, "I know." And they picked up the baby and they loved that baby as their own.

Oh listen. God needs the unknown people that are well known in heaven.

### *Prayer Will Make a Difference*

I believe that prayer will turn hearts upside down. And I believe as we pray together and humble ourselves in the sight of God and repent of any known sin through the grace of God, as we pray and believe God, we can receive from God what we need and what other people need.

Jesus Christ gave up His life in glory to live as an unknown. He was judged and condemned as a winebibber, as one under the authority of

Beelzebub. He was judged as a liar. He was judged as an illegitimate son. And on the Cross, there He was an unknown. Yet, as He committed His spirit to the Father, darkness came over the sky, and the rocks trembled because of an earthquake. There was a response from heaven to Jesus' death. The judgment of sin was passed upon God's Son. Jesus Christ, who was God Almighty, in His human body was an unknown in the eyes of men. Jesus Christ who was Deity was an unknown. Jesus Christ was unknown on earth but well known in heaven.

Oh, God knows the unknown. He knows the unknown who would get up in the morning, seek His face, and serve Him faithfully. There are unknown people who give the Kingdom of God priority, who consider their efforts as nothing because it is a privilege. Unknown people, hundreds of them, many among you, bowing their hearts before God and pleading for souls, praying for pastors, loving them in their hearts as they pray, praying for missionaries who are serving God faithfully, praying for one another. In the love of God, they pray with fervent hearts and motivated lives, motivated by the precepts of God through the Holy Spirit and the Word.

We must be as unknown people who will

pray—praying together, praying for one another, and praying with meaning and purpose and love and power. Pray so that we can move mountains by the love of God through the faith of Jesus Christ. As a church, we need people who will pray, and we need people who are just plain willing to share Jesus Christ and share His love—unknown people who are very well known in heaven.

## CONCLUSION

God rejoices over the unknown people who will go where they seem to be rejected, but who keep on plugging and keep on sharing Christ. The unknown. They are the people who will knock at door after door.

The people in those places we visit did not ask us to come. Some don't want us to be there, but we are unknown, and we don't mind. We know they have a need. We love them, and we will continue to go in the power of faith and the power of grace. So we keep on knocking, and one by one they open the doors. We go as unknown people. It does not matter what the personal persecution is all about, because we are unknown.

I believe God is raising up this kind of a people. Pray with me as you have never prayed before that God will help us to be willing to be the unknown crowd on the earth yet well known in heaven. Every time we move as a Body, Jesus

Christ and the angels say, "There they go again. Watch them."

If God could take away our lust for the world and other things, God could also take our naturalistic tendencies and put the power of compassion in our hearts today. He could bring us to the Cross to make us as unknown individuals in the eyes of the world so that we can be well known in His eyes.

I know what God wants for us. If people, through the power of God, really begin to humble themselves to get a hold of God at the altar in their homes, think of what could happen! Let's seek Him together and give our hearts to prayer. I know what great things God will do. Please ask God to make you willing to be unknown and faithful to the calling on your life, according to His will.