

SIGNIFICANTLY INSIGNIFICANT

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Have you ever felt insignificant? I remember a time back when I was in college when my friends and I did a collaborative activity. When we presented it, our group did great! A number of people came to us to express their appreciation to us and praised our work. I wasn't expecting any praises, but I remember how I felt a bit discouraged and insignificant when I was just mentioned in passing. Someone we looked up to said to my friend that he did great and showered him with praises. While doing that, he looked at me beside my friend, and then said, "Magaling ka rin." Then, he went back to mentioning encouraging things about my friend.

I felt utterly insignificant as I was just mentioned in passing. I mention this because when I was going through the book of Judges, there is one character who was seemingly mentioned merely in passing, Shamgar, in Judges 3:31. Shamgar was the third judge of Israel whose heroic actions led to peace in Israel. He is one of the characters in the Bible that you could easily miss. Probably, some people might even think that Shamgar is insignificant. But, I believe that he is significant because he was used by God, and God

wants him to be remembered, that's why he is written about in Scripture. God used him mightily to achieve His purpose, no matter who he is.

From the one verse wherein he was mentioned, one thing that we can know about him is that he was a fieldworker because he used an ox goad as a weapon. The ox goad was used as a weapon, purposely designed to direct an ox when working on the fields. Shamgar used this to defeat 600 Philistines who are known mighty warriors, who most likely possessed real weapons. That's 600 Philistines versus one Shamgar, and 600 mighty warriors versus one fieldworker. Yet, it is very clear in the verse that he defeated the 600 Philistines, and he was used by God to save Israel from their oppressors.

One thing that we can learn from this is that it doesn't matter when one feels or looks insignificant. It doesn't matter who you are, or what you have, or what you do. Just us the Lord used Shamgar, God can use you, too, no matter what! God can use you to fulfill His purpose whoever you may be. What it takes from us is mere submission to obey God's direction.

Have you ever felt that you

can't do the things God is asking you to do? Have you ever felt that you can't lead your GG anymore? Have you ever felt that you are not good enough to start a bible study group in your workplace? Have you allowed your background to hinder you from obeying God? Have you ever felt insignificant and incapable of doing the ministry?

Fear not, and be confident that God can use you no matter what! When the Lord calls us to do something, what we can do, what we have, and who we are isn't really significant. No matter how insignificant we may seem, God will fulfill His purpose through us. Actually, that's the beauty and the power of God. He uses lowly and insignificant people to do significant and great things so that people would know how Great our God is!

Therefore, be confident that God can use you no matter what. In our insignificance, as we do significant things through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, we bring glory and honor to our God. In our obedience, let us be instruments of God that bring glory to the Name that is above all names!✠