

## SOMETHING TO CHEW ON

How many letters are there in the alphabet? How many tones are there in the major scale? How many colours are there? JUST THINK!

All the newspapers, books and magazines are made up of just twenty-six letters.

All music is based on just seven tones.

All the rainbows and sunsets are centred around just three primary colours.

Twenty-six letters, seven tones and three colours, and facts like those to follow, remind us that it is often the little things that cause the final accounting in life -

\* An ocean liner on the way from America to England was wrecked off the Irish coast because its compass was deflected by a chip off a sailor's pocket knife.

\* A 220 ton electric locomotive with sixteen carriages ran off the lines and crashed into the Washington Union Station platform due to the failure of a metal handle only centimetres long.

\* A French submarine, moving off the coast of Tunis, sank and all the crew drowned because a tiny stone blocked one of the sub's small valves.

Little things, seemingly unimportant things, are vital in this mechanical age. The lives of the millions who travel daily are dependent on the proper function of tyre valves, compass needles, and gauges on instrument panels. Everything, then, in the construction of cars, boats and aeroplanes, is important. Just so, there are really no trifles in our lives. Our final destiny is dependent on little things. Often there is only a word that stands between success and failure, life and death.

Little habits are often dismissed as unimportant, not worth worrying about, but it is the daily pattern of our lives that determines our destiny. Someone has expressed this truth in the following way —

"Sow a thought, reap an act,  
Sow an act, reap a habit,  
Sow a habit, reap a character,  
Sow a character, reap a destiny."

If you have ever watched cloth being woven, you have no doubt been fascinated by the process. Each time the shuttle passes on a loom, it draws a thread, and beautiful patterns are soon formed. The habits in our lives can be likened to the threads, for each one determines the pattern of our lives. The characters we are forming are being woven in the loom of our daily lives.

Every action of our lives is either on the side of right or wrong. The only safe course, therefore, is to act from principle, and millions testify to the fact that the best place to learn balanced principles is in studying the example and teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Here is One who paid careful attention to the little things. He noticed the sparrow fall, the seed being sown and the cock crowing. As he walked the dusty pathways of Palestine he demonstrated that he was master of his moods and that he had control of his thoughts and words. This complete self-control was demonstrated in Pilate's judgment hall, and even the Roman governor had to confess, "I find no fault in this man."

Among the precious teachings of this great Master Teacher is this fundamental rule - "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." Luke 16:10. In other words, the person who is careful about little things, the details of life, can be depended upon to

look after important matters. This means that it is in our own interests to renounce every evil habit, no matter how small it may be. This cannot be done in one's own strength, but through the One who calmed the tempest and burst open the tomb we have been promised power for victorious living. All that we have to do is to get in touch with the source of power through prayer and Bible study. It only takes fifteen minutes a day to read the Bible through in a year and if we were to read it through each year, and pray for strength every day, there would be tremendous growth in our moral and spiritual resources.

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### **THE MARKS OF THE MASTER**

I see the marks of Jesus  
And he calls "Follow me"  
Can I walk in his steps  
Can I his likeness be?  
Can I bear a mark of faith  
When all around is dim?  
Can I through the darkest night  
Put all my trust in him?  
Can I bear a mark of pain  
For the sin-sick world I see?  
Can I suffer a soul to save  
And bring to eternity?  
Can I bear a mark of peace  
When all is turmoil and strife?  
Can I be still and know his will  
And bear the marks of his life?  
Can I bear a mark of love  
When hurts should come to me?  
Can I suffer wrongfully  
Can I forgiving be?  
Can I bear a mark of prayer  
And seek the face of God?  
To turn men back to walk the way  
Our blessed Saviour trod?  
Can I bear a mark of joy  
When all is sorrow and loss?  
Can I have the joy the master had  
As he walked the way of the cross?  
Yes I'll bear the marks of the Master  
For all the world to see  
His strength is made perfect in weakness  
His grace is sufficient for me!