

# THE WRITE OF A KING

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## SMALL PEOPLE

***“But Jesus said unto them, ‘A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.’ And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them” (Mark 6:4, 5).***

The world is filled with small people. When I write of *small people* I am not making any reference to the physical stature that nature endows many persons with. This, except for extreme interventions, is an irreversible condition. Nothing can be done to change it. Jesus expressed his awareness of this fixity when he rhetorically asked the multitude, “Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit to his stature?” (Matthew 6:27). Small people are sometimes large in stature, but always pygmies in mentality. They sometimes have big responsibilities but a diminutive vision. Small people are everywhere - in places of business, sports, worship, international relations, and wherever human beings interact with each other. Probably one could be near you right now.

Small people are those who seek to enlarge themselves by belittling others. My wife and I met a small person recently. He was at least six feet tall and weighs about one hundred and seventy pounds. He had a jacket on and was scribbling on a notebook in a manner that suggests that he was very important and that he was engaged in the process of capturing profound thoughts before they eluded him. My wife tried to converse with him. He was condescending, patronizing, impolite, and arrogant. He said everything that he could to make my wife look stupid, but she kept talking to him while I listened in silence. During the exchange between *unequals*, I managed to write the following sentence in a book that I was carrying, *There is nothing worse than being small*, and mischievously showed it to my wife. One has to be small to treat a stranger – and a woman at that - with disdain that is being nice to you. Such is the nature of small people. They focus on their own importance. They make themselves the axis of life. They are the stage and the drama of existence. Others exist only to enhance their worth. People who live and believe like this are prominent Lilliputians.

Small people never release others from the confinement of commonness and familiarity. Nazareth was a community just like that. This community had become proverbial for its lack of progress and its ability to manufacture the worst of any kind. *Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?* was the sarcastic quip (John 2:46) Nazareth was a community of small people. They had an opportunity to grow and to undo the social stigma that was strangling the community when Jesus visited their town; instead, they justified Nathanael’s skepticism by the manner in which they related to Jesus. “*Is not this Joseph’s son?*” they scornfully asked. Jesus’ ability to operate effectively in that community was severely compromised by the small-mindedness of the people who resided there. Only a few people received the blessings of heaven when it was equally available to all. The citizens could not negate the value of Jesus’ works, but they could choose to be small. They had no complain about his professionalism but they never had to engage his service. How sad! Small people never have large expectations of their own. Whenever one of them grows, he/she is treated like a Gulliver. One who is committed to Jesus must relate to people the way Jesus did. They must be treated with respect and accorded the highest importance.

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