Lessons from the Small Things
In God's Big World - Part I

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Eyes Wide Open

"Mine eyes are ever toward the LORD; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net." Psalm 25:15

It is finally warming up around here and I've been noticing all the little bugs and insects around. There are bees and wasps where I park every day and wait for my daughter to get out of school. They want so badly to come inside my car. I roll the windows down because I'm hot. Then I roll them up to keep the bees or wasps out. Depends which one is bugging me that day. I repeat that up and down with the windows several times in just the space of a few minutes (as I get panicky that they might get me). All those insects are a little buggy at times but I sure enjoy watching all those little critters that are God's creation.

I was thinking about all these small things and the dragonfly came to mind. Now it is one of those mysterious ones that God created. Dragonflies have those big eyes wide open. I've read that their sight encompasses basically 360 degrees and that they can see everything at most angles. Wish I could see like that, especially those things that seem to sneak up on me and sideswipe me.

There are things I wish I could have seen coming. I know there are things that as Christians we should watch out for so we don't get off track in our daily living. We need to have our eyes wide open like a dragonfly.

- **Eyes Open to Understanding.**
  If we would keep our eyes open to understanding the Lord, just think how much better we would get to know Him.

  *That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling,*  
  *and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.*  
  *Ephesians 1:17, 18*

- **Eyes Open to the Word.**
  I guess if we had our eyes wide open to what God's Word says, we'd learn more and be better to handle those things that get into our view.

  *Mine eyes prevent the night watches,*  
  *that I might meditate in thy word.*  
  *Psalm 119:148*
Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. Psalm 119:18

- **Eyes Open to Temptation.**
  Just think how much smoother our lives would be if we were constantly on guard for this one. We know we are supposed to be on our toes for it to come sneaking in but sometimes it's there right in front of us before we see it.

  Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. Matthew 26:41

- **Eyes Open to God's Help.**
  We get into these situations and our eyes are bugging out because here comes trouble. How much better we could handle it if we constantly had our eyes on God and were really relying on the Lord.

  I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. Psalms 121:1

**Conclusion:**
Without that 360 degree sight, dragonflies wouldn't be able to be ready to make the quick maneuvers that they need to make in midair. I think that when we keep our eyes wide open to certain things, we are better able to maneuver too. We are better able to handle all those things that come sailing into our view.

All in all, I think we need to keep our eyes on the Lord because He's the One who sees all. The Lord can see up ahead where we can't and that's a nice fact to rest in. He can see behind us where we may have missed something. The Lord can also help us handle those things that come whizzing past us.

**So, are your eyes wide open?**

Scripture References are from the King James Version.
1. Have things or circumstances ever snuck upon you that you didn’t see coming?

2. How do you usually feel when that happens?

3. How can we keep our eyes open to understanding the Lord?

4. What things can we do daily to help us keep our eyes open to the Word of God?

5. What does Matthew 26:41 say is weak? What does it mean by that?

6. Why is it so important to have our eyes on the Lord for our help when it comes to troubling things that come into our lives?

7. Name some things in your life that you feel you may need to keep your eyes open a little wider to.
"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
Matthew 6:19-21

Sometimes I enjoy watching the bees buzzing along in our backyard. That is, as long as they don't get too close to me. They never stay long in one spot. They just hover here and there keeping busy with their job of pollination.

When I consider the bees, I wonder what I am buzzin' along doing? I think of the Proverbs 31 woman and how she buzzed around.

"[She] worketh willingly with her hands." (vs. 13)
"She riseth also while it is yet night" (vs. 15)
"She layeth her hands to the spindle" (vs. 19)
"She stretcheth out her hand to the poor." (vs. 20)
"She maketh fine linen, and selleth it" (vs. 24)
"[She] eateth not the bread of idleness" (vs. 27)

There's nothing wrong with being busy. The Proverbs 31 woman demonstrates this. It also shows that she was accomplishing much. I wonder how much I accomplish? I don't want to just be buzzin' along just to buzz and not accomplishing anything. Sometimes I think I'm guilty of that. I think it's a trap we can all easily fall into by putting too much on our plates. I think we all need to slow down from time to time and really evaluate what it is we are buzzin' about. We may need to ask ourselves some questions.

1. **What Am I Busy Doing?**
   You may need to just list out your daily routine to actually see what you are doing. Are there things that you could cut out? Are there things you need to add? Maybe you need to make a calendar and get organized. The bees could never accomplish all they need to do without order.

2. **What Are My Priorities?**
   You may need to take a look at the things that play an importance in your life and
evaluate whether they should be a priority. Are they taking away from your family time or time in God's Word? Maybe make a list of what's really important to you.

3. **Am I Accomplishing Anything For Christ?**
   With all of your buzzin', are you making your life count for the Lord? Looking back to Matthew 6:19-21--Where's your treasure?

**Conclusion:**
Sometimes we all need to get a perspective on the things that we are buzzin’ along doing in our lives. We need to live in motion, but we need to be careful that we don't become overwhelmed too. There are times we need to slow down and reflect on the Lord. "Be still, and know that I am God..." Psalm 46:10. We've got to get our priorities set so that we can enjoy our lives and our families. Sometimes we have to get our buzzin' going in the right direction in order to live life to the fullest.

**So, what are you buzzin' along doing?**

Scripture References are from the King James Version.
1. Bees are busy and so was the Proverbs 31 woman. What were some of the things she was busy doing? (Proverbs 31:10-31)

2. Do you normally plan out your day?

3. What are some of the things you do to keep organized?

4. What is at the top of your list of priorities in life?

5. What is on the bottom of that list?

6. Why do you think it is so easy to get overwhelmed as a woman?

7. What does Psalm 46:10 say we should do?
Ladybug! Ladybug!

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" 1 Corinthians 6:19

Ladybugs are unique creatures. They are also about the only bug I like. I guess because they are so bright and cute even if they are beetles. I can remember when I was little I would catch ladybugs and let them crawl across my fingers.

I think it is interesting that scientists tell the different species of ladybugs apart by the number of spots they have. I wonder if people can tell us by our spots? We are ladies of God. Do we show that fact by how we conduct ourselves? Are we talking, walking, sitting, dressing, acting, thinking like godly ladies?

- **Talk Like A Lady.**
  There’s nothing appealing about foul and filthy language coming out of a woman’s mouth. Even less appealing when it comes out of a Christian woman. It’s not just foul language that can get us into trouble though. Let’s not forget the other things that come out of our mouths too. Unkind words, harsh comments, nagging, gossiping, and complaining are some. Those are things that don’t add up to godly spots.

  She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. Proverbs 31:26

  Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. Ephesians 4:29

- **Walk Like A Lady.**
  When I was in high school, I had Charm Class and I remember the teacher having us walk with a book on our head. I recall her telling us not to gallop like horses and not to walk like we just got off of one. That’s good advice. An even gait is much more pleasing.

  How do you walk? It’s probably something you don’t think about. Do you clomp your shoes, barrel over people, or even trot like that horse?
We don't want to forget about our spiritual walk as well. Seeking the Lord daily in prayer and Bible study will help us walk more like Christ wants us to do.

*And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour. Ephesians 5:2*

**Sit Like A Lady.**

I was told over and over when I was young to sit like a lady and I find myself telling my 8 year old daughter the same thing. Sitting like a lady is important. When you don't sit like a lady it can send all the wrong signals and it isn't pleasing to those around you either.

How we sit spiritually speaking is important too. The Bible tells us to be careful in this area. Psalm 1:1 talks about sitting "*in the seat of the scornful*" (those that reject and mock Christ for who He is).

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. Psalm 1:1*

Where do you find yourself sitting? Is it with bad company? Maybe it's a problem with sitting and being idle. Maybe it's too much sitting in front of the TV or computer? Maybe too much time sitting and gossiping? Proverbs 31:27 talks about how the Proverbs 31 lady "*eateth not the bread of idleness." How you sit will show your spots.*

**Dress Like A Lady.**

What you wear will show your spots too. Have you ever noticed that verse in Proverbs 7:10?

*And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.*

The woman in this verse was associated with the clothes that she wore just like we are.

Some people think it doesn't matter what you wear because people should look on the heart and not your clothes. Face it. Only God looks at the heart. Man is always going
to look at the outward appearance. I'm not saying you get so caught up in your appearance that you go overboard. But we are to be careful in this area. You don't want to hinder the cause of Christ by what you wear.

*In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel.* 1 Timothy 2:9a

Modesty is not the only thing important where the area of dress is concerned. Some of us have the modesty part under control. We'd never think of wearing something too tight, too low, too short, etc. But in the areas of sloppiness and unkempt appearances we can sometimes be a little lacking.

When you are wearing clothes three sizes too big, stained up clothes, wrinkled clothes, or clothing that just didn't fit in general, it isn't giving a good impression. I think this is an area that needs more attention, not just the modesty aspect, but dressing like ladies in a clean and neat fashion. We ought to be pleasing the Lord in how we dress. I don't think He's pleased by sloppiness on our part. We're His and our body is His. I find myself falling into the sloppiness trap because I like to be comfortable, but we are children of the King and we should dress our best. I know this is something I really need to work on.

*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of th Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?* 1 Corinthians 6:19

**Act Like A Lady.**

How we act will definitely show our spots. Have you ever stopped to consider how you act when you are around other people? Are you loud, boisterous, pushy and unkind or are you considerate and even-tempered? How do you act towards your family and to your husband?

Did you know that the ladybug goes through a complete metamorphosis? We as Christian women should be changed in Christ. We need to put off the *"old man"* and put on Christ.

*That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts. And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.* Ephesians 4:22-24
The ladybug uses its antennae to touch, smell and taste. We have our own antennae in the Word of God. We should let it be our guide when it comes to what we allow ourselves to be involved in as Christian ladies.

Another fact about ladybugs is that they are helpful. They continuously eat all those bad things like aphids (plant lice), Potato Beetles and Corn Bores. Ladybugs are considered to be the most beneficial of all insects. How beneficial are we by our actions? Are we helpful godly ladies?

- **Think Like A Lady.**
  If we are not thinking like a lady, it’s going to be harder for us to talk, walk, sit, dress, and act like one. We have to keep our hearts and minds focused on Christ in order to be the godly lady we should be. Where have your thoughts been lately? Are you focusing on things that a godly lady should?

  *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*
  
  *2 Corinthians 10:5*

  *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*
  *Philippians 4:8*

**Conclusion:**
One of the dictionary definitions of a "lady" is "a woman of high social position" and the second part of that definition is "a woman who is polite, well-mannered and refined". As Christian women we do have a "high social position". Not on a worldly level, but if we are born again Christians, we are children of the King. We are part of a royal family and we should act accordingly. Being "polite" and "well-mannered" should come in tow. When we allow Christ to take over our lives, our thinking, actions, speech, and behavior will reflect Him and we’ll become those godly ladies that we should be.

**So, are you conducting yourself like a lady?**

Scripture References are from the King James Version.
Discussion Questions

1. How do you think a lady should talk?

2. What are some things we open our mouths with that are not “with wisdom” as in Proverbs 31:26?

3. What does it mean to edify? (Ephesians 4:29)

4. Have you ever seen someone who didn’t walk like a lady? What impression did they leave on you?

5. What are we to “walk in” according to Ephesians 5:2?

6. Where are we not supposed to sit according to Psalm 1:1?

7. What’s your favorite place to sit? (your easy chair, playing games with your kids/grandkids, at the kitchen table, on your porch, etc.)

8. What does “dressing like a lady” mean to you?

9. What type of apparel are we to dress in according to 1 Timothy 2:9

10. What are some ways we can act like “ladies”?

11. What are we to do with our thoughts according to 2 Corinthians 10:5?

10. What are some traits that you associate a lady with?