Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff

Intro:
- “don’t sweat the small stuff”
  - phrase, concept that we shouldn’t worry or get stressed out about things that don’t really matter

- illus.: Robert Eliot
  - “Rule number one is, don't sweat the small stuff. Rule number two is, it's all small stuff.”

- as Christians, we “don’t sweat the small stuff”
  - but to us some things in life are “big stuff” which we should sweat

Things not directly related to salvation are the “small stuff”
- Phil. 2:12 obey, work out salvation with fear and trembling
  - if it doesn’t have to do with salvation, it’s small stuff

- illus.: Lk. 14:26 must hate father, mother, wife, children, brother, sister, and own life to follow Jesus
  - love God more than anyone or anything
  - things of God and salvation are the “big stuff”, everything else is “little stuff”

- illus.: Matt. 10:28 not fear those who can kill body, but God who can destroy both body and soul in hell
  - Rom. 14:8 live to the Lord, die to the Lord, whether live or die we are the Lord’s
  - 2 Cor. 5 Christians welcome death, when put on immortality and be with Lord forever
  - things of God and salvation are the “big stuff”, everything else is “little stuff”

- illus.: Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego not worship idol (Dan. 3)
  - story:
    - King Nebuchadnezzar made a 90’ tall gold idol
    - law: when music played everyone had to worship the idol, or they’d be thrown into a burning hot furnace
    - Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego didn’t sin, disobeyed the king, didn’t worship the idol
    - Dan. 3:13-18 king’s conversation with Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego
      - not sweat the small stuff, whether live or die
      - king was angry, had furnace fired up 7 times hotter than before
    - young men in the furnace
      - those who carried them to the furnace killed by the flames
      - Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego fell in
      - but One like the Son of God was in the furnace with them
      - saved, not die, hair not singed, clothes not even smell like smoke
    - because they didn’t sweat the small stuff and were willing to die rather than sin, the king glorified God
      - Dan. 3:28 yielded up their bodies
      - often times when we don’t sweat the small stuff, and people see our courage, they glorify God, even if they’re not Christians

- conclusion: things pertaining to salvation are the “big stuff”, everything else is the “little stuff”
Matters concerning physical life are the “small stuff”
- basic necessities are “small stuff” – food, clothing
  - Matt. 6:25, 27, 28a, 31-33 food and clothing “small stuff” – kingdom of God is “big stuff”
- matters of everyday life are “small stuff” – sleep, wake, work, school, recreation, etc.
  - 2 Tim. 2:4 not entangle self in everyday life – not entangle is “small stuff”
- illus.: Mary and Joseph
  - Mary conceived a child by the Holy Spirit – shame, pregnant without a husband
  - Joseph was engaged to Mary, found out she was pregnant, was going to put her away – shame
  - Joseph told by angel that Mary was pregnant by the by the Holy Spirit, and not to be afraid to take her to be his wife – faith
  - they got married, but Mary remained a virgin till after Jesus was born – obedience
  - poor, had to travel to Bethlehem for a census, Mary gave birth in a stable, Jesus kept in a manger used to feed animals – perseverance
  - Herod tried to kill Jesus so they had to move to Egypt without going home to get their stuff
  - Herod died and they had to move to Nazareth, living out their lives as Galileans, low on the social-economic ladder
  - Jesus’ parents didn’t sweat the small stuff, maybe that’s why they made good parents for the Lord
- illus.: Jesus
  - boy and young man: trained as carpenter, lowly Nazarene, nothing of a physical nature that made Him special (no comeliness)
  - ministry: homeless, not have a place to lay his head, didn’t own property and not have wealth, died as an innocent man on a cruel cross
  - Jesus didn’t sweat the small stuff, He concentrated on accomplishing His mission
- wealth is “small stuff” – career, job, earnings, savings, personal balance sheet, retirement
  - Mk. 8:36 what will it profit if gain whole world and lose soul – profit, money, “small stuff”
  - illus.: rich man
    - land productive and had an abundant harvest
    - decided to pull down old barns and build bigger ones to have room to store crops, that way he could not worry about working but rather party (eat drink and be merry)
    - God called Him a fool, he died, his soul was required of him that night, all physical possessions taken away
    - Jesus: “So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”
  - accumulating wealth is the “small stuff” – laying up treasure in heaven is the “big stuff”
- human interpersonal relationships are “small stuff” – family, friends
  - Matt. 10:34-39 Jesus came to bring sword
    - we love our neighbors, but whether they love us back is “small stuff”
    - if someone doesn’t like you as a Christian, don’t sweat the “small stuff”
    - our relationship with Jesus (God) is “big stuff” – all other relationships are “small stuff”
  - illus.: myself, before marriage, badly wanted to meet a girl I could marry, committed first to serving God even if He chose to have be live single for life
    - find a spouse, getting married, having a family is “small stuff” – obeying Jesus is “big stuff”
How not to sweat the small stuff – priorities, attitude

- strong, abiding, unwavering faith in God, based on His word
  - Rom. 10:17 faith comes by hearing (Rom. 1:16; 1 Th. 2:13)
    - good Bible students, always learning, applying God’s word, changing our lives
  - 1 Pet. 2:2 feed upon God’s word like a new born baby feeds on milk, grow
    - strong desire to learn God’s word, follow through, obey
  - 1 Jn. 5:4 the victory that overcomes the world is our faith (Rom. 10:17; 1:16; 1 Th. 2:13)
    - faith resulting in obedience to God (Heb. 11; Ja. 2)

- believe without any doubt that God hears our prayers and answers, doing what’s best for us every time
  - Matt. 7:7-11 God gives good gifts (ask, seek, knock)
    - totally and completely turn ourselves over to God, in faith, without doubt, without wavering,
      knowing He always does what’s best – not sweat the “small stuff”

- learn to be contentment
  - Phil. 4:11-13 learn to be content, and do all things through Christ
    - when we’re content we don’t sweat the “small stuff”, then we can devote ourselves wholly to God

- enjoy the peace of God
  - Phil. 4:4-7 peace that surpasses understanding guards heart and mind
    - when we are at peace we don’t sweat the “small stuff”, then we can overcome any problem to the
glory of God

Summary / Inv.

- as Christians, we don’t sweat the small stuff, because we’re sweating the big stuff and letting God take
care of everything else
  - “big stuff” is the things of salvation, everything else is “small stuff”
  - we sweat the “big stuff” and God takes care of the “small stuff” for us

- Are you sweating the “big stuff” of God, or the “small stuff” of physical life?

- inv.: sweat the right stuff, and God will take care of everything else for you
  - #1: be a faithful Christian