

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



The last word, and the most beautiful; spoken with deep pathos as an aside; about the disciples rather than to them, though heard by them. "Whosoever shall do the smallest service, were it but to give a drink to one of these little ones...I declare solemnly even he shall without fail have his appropriate reward."

- Expositor's Greek Testament, 19<sup>th</sup> cent.

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## Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

<sup>42</sup> **TO ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES** Matthew 10

Jesus is not talking about children. The little ones are adult missionaries. Jesus calls them little not to belittle but rather to convey what they all know to be the case. In the eyes of others, they will be of no great significance.

The little ones are little because they have handed over the means by which they might loom large. They are vulnerable—vulnerable because part of the mission as Jesus describes it earlier on in Chapter 10 is to live like Jesus, as though nothing, save one’s relationship with God, is to be defended at all costs.

I wonder where it would take me if I more consciously incorporated “little one” my sense of identity and purpose. That wondering leads me to ask: Is it or is it not already a part of how I view the becoming of a disciple?

Says one spiritual leader:

“A DISCIPLE is a person who  
experiences the forgiveness and acceptance of God,  
follows the life and teachings of Jesus Christ,  
demonstrates the fruit of the Spirit,  
AND WHO  
shares in the life and witness of a community of disciples,  
including Baptism and the Lord’s Supper,  
serves in some form of ministry every day,  
participates in God’s suffering and transformation of the world,  
anticipates a future life in the presence of God,  
AND WHO THEREBY  
yearns to lead others to become disciples (M. Coyner).”

Bishop Sharma Lewis of Virginia recently put it this way: *A disciple of Jesus is a lifelong learner who influences others to serve.*

As for how those descriptions would make you or me a little one: I think it rides on how much of our selves we give to that way of life. Jesus asked the twelve to wage it all and the one who does that, well, she will never be the next big thing nor big and bad on the world stage. Little One Rachel May: Allow me this spell of Wonder Woman delight—I just saw the film—and then I’ll try it on for size.

### Matthew 10:40-42

*A New New Testament: A Bible for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Combining Traditional and Newly Discovered Texts*, Ed., Hal Taussig.

Anyone who welcomes you is welcoming me; and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the one who sent me. The person who welcomes a prophet, because he is a prophet, will receive a prophet’s reward; and anyone who welcomes a good person, because she is a good person, will receive a good person’s reward. And, if anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because she is my follower, I tell you that she will assuredly not lose her reward.”