

**the**



**BUTTERFLY**

**Colossians 3:17**

**effect**

## THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

Fall ADVANCE 2018

**BIG IDEA:** We don't have to do something big to start something big.

**FRIDAY NIGHT DEVO:** **Everything We Do Matters** (Acts 9:18-31; Col. 3:17)

**Point:** Whether we realize it or not, everything we do in life matters because it has the potential to affect others. In this lesson, we will examine how helping Paul escape from those Jews who wanted to kill him, had an impact for centuries.

**SATURDAY MORNING (SPLIT) DEVO – Don't Overlook the Small Things** (Mark 6:30-44)

**Point:** Although some of the things we can do may seem very small, those things have the potential to have major impacts on the lives of many. In this lesson, we will see how one little boy's lunch made a big difference in the lives of thousands.

**SATURDAY MORNING CLASS – The Impact of Teaching One** (John 1:35-42)

**Point:** Andrew simply brought his brother Simon to Jesus. What seemed so small was actually the beginning of something big. By leading his brother to Jesus, Andrew helped to lead countless others to Jesus as well.

**SATURDAY MORNING CLASS – The Impact of Influencing One** (Acts 16: 1-5; I Tim. 1:2; Rom. 16:21)

**Point:** By taking Timothy under his wings and mentoring him, Paul not only had a fellow worker in service to the Lord, but he had an influence on all those who Timothy would influence during his ministry.

**SATURDAY NIGHT DEVO – Careless Words & Deeds: The Negative Side of the Butterfly Effect** (I Kgs. 16:21-30)

**Point:** Just as the small things we do can make a positive impact on others, they can also have a negative impact as well. In this lesson, we will focus on how a negative influence can impact others throughout generations as seen through the example Omri, Ahab and Ahaziah.

**SUNDAY MORNING DEVO – Making A Lasting Impact** (Exo. 1:15-2:10)

**Point:** The butterfly effect begins when we have the courage to take action. In this lesson, we will learn how a few different women had the courage to act in the life of one little boy and how through their actions, many lives were saved.

**THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT:**  
**Everything We Do Matters**

**INTRODUCTION:**

- A. We all want to live significant lives that matter and make a difference.
- B. We can't control when we are born and we can't really control when we die. All we can control is the life we live in between those two very important dates.
- C. Does one small action have the potential to make a huge impact on the world for generations to come?

**THE REMARKABLE INFLUENCE OF PAUL**

- A. He helped establish a number of churches through his missionary efforts.
- B. He helped train other men to carry out the work of an evangelist (Timothy, Titus, etc.).
- C. He was able to preach before leaders and rulers who might not have otherwise heard the gospel presented.
- D. He wrote several of the New Testament letters preserved for us today.

**PAUL'S REMARKABLE INFLUENCE WAS THE RESULT OF OTHERS HELP ALONG THE WAY**

- A. Ananias was the first one commissioned to go and lay hands on this persecutor of Christians (Acts 9:10-20).
- B. The disciples in Damascus helped him escape the Jews plot to kill him by lowering him down the wall in a basket (Acts 9:23-25).
- C. Barnabas vouched for him so the disciples in Jerusalem would be accepting of him (Acts 9:26-28).
- D. The disciples in Jerusalem helped him escape some angry Jews who wanted to kill him (Acts 9:29-31).
- E. The disciples at Lystra most likely helped care for Paul after he was stoned (Acts 14:12-21).
- F. Paul's nephew helped save his life by informing the tribune of a vicious plot to kill him (Acts 23:12-22).
- G. Julius escorted Paul to Rome and kept him from being killed after a shipwreck (Acts 27:39-44).

## **THE REMARKABLE INFLUENCE WE HAVE**

- A. Paul told Timothy to not let anyone despise his youth, but to always set an example (I Tim. 4:12).
- B. Jesus told His disciples to be the light of the world (Matt. 5:13-16).
- C. What we do everyday matters far more than we will ever realize.
  - 1. Words we speak (Prov. 18:21; Eph. 4:29; Matt. 12:36).
  - 2. Moves we make (Tit. 1:16)

## **CONCLUSION:**

- A. How far forward would we need to go in our lives to see the difference we make?
- B. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (Col. 3:17).
- C. When we come to understand that everything we do matters, we will start living a life of influential purpose.

**The Butterfly Effect:**  
***Don't Forget the Small Things***

**INTRODUCTION:** Sometimes small things have a way of turning into large things.

**Feeding the Multitude – Mark 6:30-44**

- A. Consists of two things: (1) bread and (2) fish.
- B. The purpose of the feeding was the compassion of Jesus.
- C. They were like sheep without a Shepherd.

**A Small Thing A Long Way Away**

- A. A small act performed by a single individual far away.
- B. Bore Huge Results.

**A Small Thing A Long Time Ago**

- A. Someone sharing a word about Jesus a long time ago.
- B. Produces huge results even today.

**A Small Thing by A High School Boy**

- A. Overcoming fear of rejection.
- B. What if the small thing was overlooked?

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. True Christians want to serve God. In fact, it is impossible for a true Christian not to serve God.
- B. We will want to take advantage of every opportunity presented regardless of how large or how small.

**The Butterfly Effect:**  
***Don't Forget the Small Things***

**INTRODUCTION:**

- A. Imagine throwing a small pebble into a beautiful still pond. What happens? Ripples expand out from the entrance point of that small pebble into the water.
- B. Just like that small pebble, small actions we accomplish in our Christian lives can have a large ripple effect on others.

**Results of a Small Action – Mark 6:30-44**

- D. Christ's love and care were demonstrated v. 34-38
- E. Fellowship v. 39-40
- F. Christ's power was demonstrated v. 41-42
- G. There was an abundance v. 43
- H. Many were fed v. 44

**Things That Hold Us Back**

- A. Fear - II Timothy 1:7
- B. Laziness - Proverbs 12:24, James 2:17
- C. Selfishness - Philippians 2:3, James 3:16
- D. Not Worthy - Exodus 4:10-12, Psalm 139:14, I Peter 2:9

**The Power of One**

- A. The Power of One Person
- B. The Power of One Action
- C. The Power of One Faith

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. Remember that the Lord wants us to give all to him just as the boy did that day. And although what the boy gave wasn't enough, the Lord made it enough through Christ Jesus.
- B. We can make a difference in our own life as well as in other's lives just as this little boy did in Mark 6 by not avoiding, forgetting, or refusing to do the small things.
- C. Those small things can have large and powerful impacts on ourselves and others.

**The Butterfly Effect:**  
***The Impact of Teaching One***

**INTRODUCTION:**

- A. One of the greatest men in all of scripture was brought to Jesus by an invitation.
- B. How did Andrew have such an impact on God's kingdom?
- C. John 1:35-42

**Andrew Saw the Importance**

- A. When Andrew found Jesus, he **immediately** went for his brother.
- B. He looked past the present and realized what was at stake.
- C. How can we develop a sense of urgency for bringing others to Christ?

**Andrew Acted on the Opportunity**

- A. He led by example and followed through.
- B. Leading others to Christ can take time and effort.
- C. Are we following through with our opportunities?

**God Gave the Increase**

- A. No matter how hard we try, some will obey and some will not.
- B. God is the true provider of spiritual growth.
- C. Trust in the Lord to act in his good faith.

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. One opportunity turned into a lifetime of faith.
- B. Have we been simply inviting others to study God's word?

**The Butterfly Effect:**  
***The Impact of Influencing One***

**INTRODUCTION:** Paul chose Timothy because of his good reputation (1 Cor. 15:33).

- A. He was willing to go.
- B. He was willing to sacrifice.
- C. He was willing to endure.

**Life is Easier When You Have People Around You with the Same Goals**

**Little Things We Do Can Have A Big Influence**

- A. Paul had big influence on Timothy.
  - 1. Paul spent time with Timothy (1 Tim. 1:2).
  - 2. Timothy was an influence to others (Rom. 16:21).
- B. The little things we do can have a big influence on the world around us.

**Our Influence Will Last. What will it be?**

- A. Worldly
- B. Godly

**Questions**

- A. As we look at our lives how are we influencing people?
- B. How do we control our influence?
- C. Are all influential things big things?
- D. What influences you?

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. By taking Timothy under his wings and mentoring him, Paul not only had a fellow worker in service to the Lord, but he had an influence on all those who Timothy would influence during his ministry.
- B. May we see the big impact that is possible by simply influencing the people around us.



**The Butterfly Effect:**  
***The Negative Side: Careless Words and Deeds***

**INTRODUCTION:**

- A. The Chaos Theory of the Butterfly Effect
- B. An example of the Butterfly Effect
- C. I Kings 16: 21-30

**What We Do as Children of God Matters**

- A. Nothing matters in life, but what you do for Christ (Col. 3:17).
- B. Investing our lives with Lord (Prov. 16:9).
- C. 1<sup>st</sup> stage: Acceptance of our Lord
- D. 2<sup>nd</sup> stage: Feeding of the word and growth
- E. 3<sup>rd</sup> stage: Applying scriptures daily to have a positive impact on others as God has shown us in scripture.

**We Must Keep God as Our Influence**

- A. Matthew 5:12-16 (Believers are Salt and Light)
- B. Ephesians 2:8-10 (Created in Christ to do good works)
- C. Our works and deeds shouldn't just make an impact on some people, but on everyone.

**Be Rewarded in Heaven**

- A. Matthew 5:12; Philippians 3:14
- B. Press toward the mark for the prize.
- C. Be 100% committed to Jesus – All the time!

**THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT**  
***Making A Lasting Impact***

**INTRODUCTION:**

- A. If we want to make a lasting difference in the world we must have the courage to take action.
- B. Taking action is never easy even when we know it's the right thing to do (EX: standing up for the bullied).
- C. As we close this series, let's consider what will be required of us if we want to make a lasting impact.

**BACKGROUND TO THE TEXT:**

- A. While living in Egypt, the people of Israel increased greatly and grew exceedingly strong (Exo. 1:6-7).
- B. The Egyptians were afraid of the Israelites because there were so many of them (Exo. 1:9-10).
- C. No matter how hard they tried to oppress Israel, the Israelites continued to multiply (Exo. 1:11-14).

**SHIPHRAH AND PUAH'S DILEMMA (Exodus 1:15-22)**

- A. The midwives had to choose whether they would obey the king's order to kill all the Hebrew baby boys.
- B. The midwives feared God more than they feared Pharaoh.
- C. Making a lasting impact will require us to choose God's Law over everything else (Acts 5:29; Rom. 12:2).

**JOCHEBED'S SACRIFICE (Exodus 2:1-3)**

- A. Moses' mother hid and protected him for as long as she could.
- B. Moses' mother knew his only chance of survival was with someone else.
- C. Making a lasting impact will require us to make sacrifices along the way (relationships, job, money).

**PHARAOH'S DAUGHTERS UNEXPECTED MERCY (Exodus 2:4-10)**

- A. The daughter of the king had pity on the helpless baby floating down the river.
- B. Moses lived for 40 years in the house of Pharaoh with all its advantages.
- C. Making a lasting impact will require us to demonstrate a merciful attitude toward others (Matt. 5:7; Lk. 6:36).

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. "Your greatest contribution to the Kingdom of God may not be something you do but someone you raise" (Andy Stanley).
- B. What you do may seem small and insignificant right now, but who knows the lasting impact it may have.
- C. These women each contributed to the rescue and freedom of over 2 million Israelite people.