

A Little Effort Required

Several years ago in South America, a crew of Peruvian sailors – headed up the Amazon River – came upon a strange sight.

It was like a scene from *The Twilight Zone*. A Spanish ship was anchored off the coast and all the sailors were stretched out weakly on the deck of the ship.

As the Peruvians drew closer, they saw the Spaniards were in terrible physical condition. They looked the picture of death itself, their lips parched and swollen. They were literally dying of thirst.

“Can we help you?” shouted the Peruvians.

The Spaniards cried out, “Water! Water! We need fresh water!”

The Peruvian sailors, surprised at this request, told them to lower their buckets and help themselves.

The Spaniards, fearing they had been misunderstood, cried back: “No, no. We need fresh water!”

But they received the same reply from the Peruvians to lower their buckets and help themselves. They finally *did* lower their buckets into the ocean waters, and when they brought the buckets on deck, they discovered to their amazement fresh water.



They had quit trying. There, at the mouth of the Amazon River, anchored for days, too far from land to see the coast but not too far from the mouth of the river, they had fresh water in abundance.

Apathy had taken over and they had quit. They were resigned to die when all that was needed was to lower their buckets. A small effort would have made all the difference.

Isn't this story instructive for us?

Perhaps too often we concentrate on lofty goals and big issues – and we certainly should be mindful of them – that we neglect the important, little things that can make such a difference. Things like ...

(more)

- An encouraging word to a family member admitting her mother into our care.
- A shoulder to lean on for an associate experiencing a family tragedy.
- Just taking a little time to listen to a resident's story.
- Picking up an item at the store on the way into work for a patient with no family.
- Displaying an attitude of gratitude as your lifestyle.

Jesus had something to say about these little efforts.

One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much (Luke 16:10 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter