

## ONE MINUTE MESSAGE

### LITTLE SHARKS, BIG JELLY FISH (Matthew 25:21)

Every time I go swimming in the ocean, someone inevitably warns me: Watch out for sharks! Of course, I do, but I've never seen one. I've never even heard the "bom-bom-bom-bom" music that plays when sharks come near. And it's a good thing, because once you hear the music, it's probably too late.

But no one ever says, "Watch out for the jelly fish," even though jelly fish are far more dangerous. Each year they kill more people than sharks do.

And when I walk each day in the park, no one says, "Watch out for the bees." Yet, bees kill more people each year than sharks and jelly fish combined.

We tend to worry the sharks (whether we're near the water or not), because sharks are big and scary. And we tend to ignore real threats because, by themselves, they're not all that intimidating. Don't let the little things in life fool you. You ignore them at your own peril.

Every good marriage...every good employee...every good business succeeds because they've learned to pay attention to the little things.

Jesus told a story about a servant who was given some money to manage, and because he managed it well, he was rewarded. The master said, *You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities.* (Matthew 25:21)

Our greatest wins and losses in life result from our ability to master the seemingly minor details of life. Reading a few verses of scripture and spending some time in prayer each day may not seem significant to some, but its long-term effect is revolutionary. Making the effort to bite your tongue may not seem that important, but in the long run it could save a relationship. Giving a customer a little extra attention might not seem like such a big deal, but it could pave the way to your next promotion.

Don't give the sharks more attention than they deserve--especially at the cost of ignoring the jelly fish. It's the little things that hold us back, and the little things that move us forward. They're our greatest danger and our most powerful weapon. • Steve May

Project Brasil is a Christian ministry located in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, devoted to bringing the gospel of Christ to poor communities. We offer English courses, computer classes, job training, children's activities, medical care and spiritual help.

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