

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Significant

"There is nothing insignificant - nothing." – Samuel Taylor Coleridge

"Not even a sparrow falls to earth unheeded." – Anonymous

"Consider, sir, how insignificant this will appear a twelve-month hence." – Samuel Johnson, in James Boswell, *Life of Samuel Johnson*

"Don't be led away to think this part of the world important and that unimportant. Every corner of the world is important. No man knows whether this part or that is most so, but every man may do some honest work in his own corner." – Thomas Hughes, *Tom Brown's Schooldays*

"It seems essential, in relationships and all tasks, that we concentrate only on what is most significant and important." – Soren Kierkegaard

Webster defines *significant* as, "large enough to be noticed or have an effect, very important, having a special or hidden meaning." This is highly similar to the idea of importance.

However, when looking at the words *significant* and *important*, there is a difference. For example, the events of 9/11/2001 were highly significant to the realization that America has its vulnerabilities. We learned that we were not as safe as we thought. Would we regard the events on that day as important? If we do, in what way were they important? Perhaps only in our thoughts of how we might learn to better protect ourselves and that justice is served. Some things then can be significant even though we may not necessarily regard them as important.

There were people and events in Scripture that we might see as significant, but not necessarily important. For example, in John 12, the apostle chose to reveal by inspiration that Judas Iscariot was a thief. We may see that as significant in that it helps us to understand that his heart was not as pure as some have thought. Was it important and necessary that we know this fact? No, for it does not change the fact that he denied the Lord. It merely exposes a side to Judas we might not otherwise have known.

The fall of Jerusalem (A.D. 70) was a significant event in history. It was a devastating time to the Jewish people. Is it a matter of importance from our perspective? No, as it does not alter the importance of the Gospel message. It is something that occurred that we understand was alluded to more than once in Scripture.

There are, however, matters which are significant from the standpoint of our salvation. And in that light, we can see there is an importance if we want to spend an eternity with our Lord.