



One Drop at a Time

M. Russell Ballard

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Do you sometimes wonder if your little efforts could possibly make any difference at all? Consider a simple example from nature.

Honey is “one of the foods that includes all the substances—enzymes, vitamins, minerals, and water—necessary to sustain life,” writes Elder M. Russell Ballard. And yet, “Over its short lifetime of just a few weeks to four months, a single honeybee’s contribution of honey to its hive is a mere one-twelfth of one teaspoon. Though seemingly insignificant when compared to the total, each bee’s one-twelfth of a teaspoon of honey is vital to the life of the hive.”

Your simple, daily acts of service matter, and this charmingly illustrated little book will lift your heart as it demonstrates the power of many righteous people working together to fill the world, one drop at a time, with the sweet truths of the gospel.

One Drop at a Time Details

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From Reader Review One Drop at a Time for online ebook

Jo says

a sweet simple book full of nuggets of wisdom.

Nancy says

My thoughts: This book is an adaptation of M. Russell Ballard's talk given in the L.D.S. General Conference talk entitled, "Be Anxiously Engaged." There are a few differences in word but the overall message remains the same: Our service matters.

Using the analogy of the honey bee, he uses his words to paint a picture of a colony of bees. Over the short lifetime of a honey bee, one of insect produces 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey. It seems so insignificant on its own yet, each bee depends on one another and work in tandem to make a hive productive and workable. This concept has been building on my mind all week, even before I read this book and was reminded of this talk.

A friend of mine is suffering an unimaginable tragedy. He and his wife are bereft and completely heartbroken. I felt presumptuous talking to them two nights ago. Although he is a dear and old friend, his wife and I are mere acquaintances. Yet in the weeks following the tragedy, I have felt a growing urgency to see her. What could I offer that others hadn't given her? Or maybe it was him. Still, I felt like it was not my place to offer condolences or words of possible comfort as I pulled up in the driveway and sat in the living room with my friend.

My inferiority and doubts of even showing up solidified when his wife walked in the room and my wonderful, shiny degrees that I hung on my walls that proved that I was a trained counselor, fell tarnished as I followed my gut. I walked up to her, wrapped my arms around her and we sobbed. And sobbed. And then we cried and talked for the next two hours. Leaning heavily on the crying part.

It isn't as if they are not surrounded by friends and family so I wondered what I had to offer that was unique. Maybe nothing. Probably my visit will disappear in the blur of the aftermath they both want to forget. But I was at least one of the twelve who were willing and able to give what I have. I am convinced that anything I said was not life altering. I believe I provided a little comfort for a short time. Somebody else could have done what I did which was show up, listen, and cry with them. My contribution is not outstanding but I showed up.

During the visit, her brother materialized. She had requested a blessing and I was honored that my friend asked me to stay. In the short, chaotic moments after her blessing, my friend turned to me and told me that he had a challenge for me. Write another verse to the popular poem, "Footprints in the Sand" that addressed the idea of looking back and seeing the hundreds of footprints in the sand of the people we meet along the journey that buoy us up, sometimes carry us, encourage us, and pray for us. The collective and proverbial village is holding the family up.

My contribution may only be 1/12 of a teaspoon. But it is a privilege to look back on the sand and know my footprints are mixed with great men and women who served these good people by offering all they have and those whose offering was to simply show up. Our footprints bisect and intersect one another. The sand is

stained with the tears we shed with one another over a particularly heavy indentation as we leaned upon one another and lightened our loads by sharing the burden even for a few moments. Yet eventually we will notice the strong, steady prints that never deviate from our path. They are on a higher plane and often only seen after leaning on the many, touching them and being touched by them. No single man or woman can carry our burdens for long but One has been carrying our burdens all along.

Shiloah says

I love this message. Short read.

Andrea says

One Drop at a Time is adapted from Elder M. Russell Ballard's talk "Be Anxiously Engaged" given at the October 2012 General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I particularly enjoyed that talk, and was excited to see what was done with *One Drop at a Time*.

The message Elder Ballard shares is one that we all need to take to heart. At times many of us feel that what we are doing doesn't make a difference. But, as explained by the honey bee example, our efforts are vital!

"Your simple, daily acts of service may not seem like much in and of themselves, but when considered collectively they become just like the one-twelfth teaspoon of honey contributed by a single bee to the hive."

Not only does *One Drop at a Time* have a great message, but the accompanying photos and illustrations make for a beautiful book that would be a perfect gift.

Shauna says

Do you sometimes feel that your efforts don't matter?

Did you know that one bee only gathers a mere 1/12 of a teaspoon in its short lifetime?

But if you magnify that by a whole hive of bees you get the incredible honey that helps sustain life.

Now compare that to us as women~
if all of us do a little we can accomplish much!

Bees depend on each other ~~ we too must depend on each other.

We must truly convert to the Lord and to the gospel.

How do we make that change? Read page 32 to find the one simple daily practice that will make the difference in your life and in the life of the others around you.

It is all done ONE DROP AT A TIME :)

This book was taken from the talk Elder Ballard gave in General Conference Oct 2012 and beautiful pictures have been added to strengthen the message and make this a book to be treasured.

Rene' Riddle says

"There is power in our love for God and for His children, and when that love is tangibly manifest in millions of acts of Christian kindness, it will sweeten and nourish the world with the life-sustaining nectar of faith, hope, and charity." I kind of fell in love with this book. I have a tendency to do that with books that have amazing illustrations and photographs. While reading this book I felt as if I was sitting near a window with the warmth of the sun streaming through on a beautiful spring day. I also appreciate Church leaders who publish books and talks that give simple straightforward answers. Elder Ballard doesn't just tell us why service is important and then close with a little nudge for us to get busy. He gives clear guidance to those of us who may not have natural tendencies and intuition for going about service.

Keely says

This simple, one-sitting read made me feel hopeful about the (often seemingly small) things I do to try to make the world a better places for my loved ones & for all people. I gained insight into some of my own experiences & behaviors, and about the direction I want to focus some of my service within my own family & the community of my friends & peers. This isn't a book that hits you over the head with anything particularly new or profound (beyond the profound teachings of Jesus Christ), but the beautiful arrangement of images & text, along with the simplicity of M. Russell Ballard's message & metaphor, evoke useful thoughts from one's own heart & mind. A very worthwhile read- one I intend to reread. A lovely gift book for Christians or open minded seekers of truth & goodness.

Sarah says

A sweet little book that teaches how much good we really can be doing in the world and how simple it is to help. ??

Susan says

Liked the analogy.

Nathan says

Wow! 1/12th a teaspoon of honey.

Mimi says

This is a beautifully illustrated, heavily honey-themed adaptation of M. Russell Ballard's October 2012 General Conference talk, "Be Anxiously Engaged." It contains a message that I need to be reminded of whenever I feel overwhelmed by all the sadness in the world. The message that the good I do does actually make a difference, albeit a small one, but I am part of something greater, part of all the good people doing good things, and together we can have a large impact.

"It is estimated that to produce just one pound of honey, the average hive of 20,000 to 60,000 bees must collectively visit millions of flowers and travel the equivalent of two times around the world."

"Over its short lifetime of just a few weeks to four months, a single honeybee's contribution of honey to its hive is a mere one-twelfth of one teaspoon."

"Your simple, daily acts of service may not seem like much in and of themselves, but when considered collectively they become just like the one-twelfth teaspoon of honey contributed by a single bee to the hive."

Nanette says

This is a beautiful GIFT book you can read in about 10 minutes. It's message is by M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum on the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It's message is simple: be like the honey bee in serving and changing the world through love 'one drop at a time.' Ironically the message is FOR WOMEN. I'm not sure why it's 'for women.' Especially since the honey bee Elder Ballard uses in analogy is male--all of them. Perhaps he should have used the Queen Bee analogy...hmmmm, maybe not. Anyway, the book is indeed beautifully illustrated even if the object lesson is a little off-putting as a women-specific one. Also, \$16? Really? I was given this book as a gift after teaching early morning seminary for a year. I appreciated the sentiment of the gift from my stake presidency immensely. But the book, specifically, is illustrated with images primarily sourced from Shutterstock and the public domain. If Deseret Book had actually hired an illustrator or made it a group art project to create original art for the book, it would have been more valuable--it comes off as a quick collage of bee images (they're kinda trendy these days) appealing to someone needing to give a gift & happens to be shopping at Deseret Book that minute. I think I'd have preferred a copy of Elder Ballard's talk printed off LDS.org & a real jar of HONEY. ;) Deseret Book (Punny!), you skammers, you.

Erika B. (SOS BOOKS) says

"Honeybees are driven to pollinate, gather nectar, and condense the nectar into honey. It is their magnificent obsession imprinted into their genetic makeup by our Creator. It is estimated that to produce just one pound of honey, the average hive of 20,000 to 60,000 bees must collectively visit millions of flowers and travel the equivalent of two times around the world. Over its short lifetime of just a few weeks to four months, a single honeybee's contribution of honey to its hive is a mere one-twelfth of one teaspoon. Though seemingly insignificant when compared to the total, each bee's one-twelfth of a teaspoon of honey is vital to the life of the hive. The bees depend on each other. Work that would be overwhelming for a few bees to do becomes

lighter because all of the bees faithfully do their part."

What would the world be like if we were like the honeybee? What if we all did our part to lift one another and support each other? Sometimes our life feels like a one-twelfth of a life but in the end that one-twelfth matters quite a bit. The world would be a much lovelier place if we all served each other with pure love! But the good news is we can all be a honeybee!!!! :)

Heidi says

A beautifully-illustrated book that is full of wisdom and counsel. This book would make a great gift for any woman who struggles to feel like her efforts to make a difference mean anything. Elder Ballard points out that just as each honeybee contributes to the whole each woman's efforts to serve are invaluable and priceless. While those efforts seem small and puny, in the end many lives can be touched by the service rendered by a righteous woman, whether at home, work, or in the community. I have seen this often in my own life. I have been blessed to have many such women in my life and my life is the richer for it.

Elder Ballard goes on to point out that the best way to make a difference is to pray and look for opportunities to serve those around us. He recommends that as women we fill our hearts with the gospel of Christ and extend that faith, hope, and charity to those around us. Many lives will be changed and uplifted if we do so. A short book to be sure, but the message is priceless. Highly recommended.

Carolyn says

Why bother buying the book when you can get the talk for free? There are exceptions to this like Your Happily Ever After, wherein pictures add so much to the content; but, this book and its pictures of honey and hives didn't really impress me, nor did the price tag on the back -- regardless of the content.
