

MISSIONARY STORIES

REAL STORIES ABOUT SPREADING GODS WORD

A Quiet Baptism That Started Something Huge!

THIS STORY IS ABOUT: SMALL OBEDIENCE, BIG RESULTS

BIG IDEA

God often starts great big things through small, quiet acts of obedience that hardly anyone notices. One person saying yes to Jesus can grow into a blessing for millions!

THE STORY

Long ago, in the year 1912, in the sunny city of San Diego, California, there lived a man named Juan Navarro. Juan had felt the power of God's Holy Spirit, and his heart was on fire to tell others about Jesus!

Juan had been reading the book of Acts in his Bible. He saw how the apostles baptized people in the name of Jesus. The more he read, the more he wanted to share this wonderful truth with everyone, especially with the Spanish-speaking families all around him.

One of the first people Juan met who wanted to obey God was a young man named Francisco Llorente. Francisco listened to Juan teach from the Bible, and his heart believed. He wanted to be baptized in the name of Jesus, just like the apostles!



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THE STORY CONTINUES

Now, there was no big, fancy church for this baptism. There were no crowds, no cameras, and no famous people watching. It was just two men by the water, doing exactly what the Bible said. Juan baptized Francisco in the name of the Lord Jesus.

It was a very quiet moment. Most of the world never even noticed it happened. But God noticed! And that small, quiet act of obedience was like a tiny seed being planted in the ground.

As the years went by, that little seed began to grow! Francisco Llorente grew up to become a mighty preacher. He held big tent meetings where many people came to hear about Jesus. He led God's people for many, many years.

And the message kept spreading! From that one baptism in San Diego, the good news traveled to Spanish-speaking families all across the Southwest and down into Mexico. More and more people were baptized in the name of Jesus!

That tiny seed grew into a great big movement called the Apostolic Assembly. Today it is one of the largest groups of Apostolic believers in the whole world! And it can all be traced back to that quiet day by the water.

Isn't that amazing? The very same Holy Ghost that fell on the apostles in the Bible, and at the big meetings in California, was also moving among Spanish-speaking people who simply wanted to obey God's Word.

Juan and Francisco's story reminds us of something wonderful: you do not have to be famous for God to use you. When you obey Him, even in a small and quiet way, He can turn it into something far bigger than you ever dreamed!





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DID YOU KNOW?

- Juan Navarro baptized Francisco Llorente in San Diego all the way back in 1912, over a hundred years ago!
- Francisco Llorente grew up to become one of the most important leaders of the Latino Apostolic movement.
- That one quiet baptism helped start the Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus, which is now huge!
- The Spanish word for the good news of Jesus is 'el evangelio,' and it spread from California all the way into Mexico.

MEMORY VERSE

“The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed... which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs.” Matthew 13:31-32

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Who did Juan Navarro baptize in the name of Jesus in San Diego?
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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 2** Was the baptism big and famous, or small and quiet? Who was the only One who really noticed?

- 3** The story compares the baptism to a tiny seed. Why do you think God likes to grow big things from small beginnings?

- 4** You do not have to be famous for God to use you. What is one quiet, good thing you can do for Jesus this week?

- 5** How does it make you feel to know that one act of obedience can bless people for over a hundred years?

LET'S PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank You that even the smallest act of obedience matters to You. Help me to obey You every day, even when nobody is watching. Plant good seeds through my life, and grow them into something wonderful for Your glory. In Your name I pray, Amen.

TRY THIS!

Plant a real seed! Give each child a cup, some soil, and a seed (mustard or bean seeds work great). As you plant, talk about how Juan and Francisco's quiet obedience grew into something huge. Water your seed each week and watch it sprout, remembering that small obedience to God grows into big blessings!

