

When You Feel Overshadowed

Ever felt like you've done something significant, but no one seemed to notice? You should get to know Harriet Quimby.

Harriet was a remarkable woman—especially when you consider the time in which she lived. In the early 1900s, she became a journalist, a profession that was largely in the hands of men. She moved to New York and became a theater critic. She also wrote screenplays for the movies—an industry still in its infancy.



Those accomplishments made her an unusual woman for her time—but then she visited an airshow. At that moment, her passion became aviation. It was 1910, and men had been flying for less than seven years.

It would no longer just be men flying. She was the first female to get a pilot's license. She joined an exhibition team and traveled the country so people could see a woman in distinctive purple clothes fly one of those contraptions.

But that still wasn't enough. She wanted to fly across the English Channel. That doesn't seem like much to us—it's only 31 miles—but a '71 Pinto full of texting teenagers is probably safer and more reliable than planes were in 1909. So flying 31 miles over water in unpredictable weather was no easy feat, and Harriet Quimby wanted to be the first woman to make the trip.

They didn't think a woman would have the strength and ability to do it. One of her consultants even volunteered to wear her purple suit and make the trip for her. Nothing doing. She would do it herself.

And she did. On April 16, 1912, Harriet Quimby made the trip from England to France. By anyone's standards of the day, **THIS WAS A REALLY BIG DEAL.**

Yet the next day, when Harriet got up to read the newspaper accounts of her accomplishment, she found it buried in the back of newspapers. Did I mention **THIS WAS A REALLY BIG DEAL IN 1912?** However, the Titanic had sunk the day before her flight, and every newspaper was focused on the tragedy. Her feat went largely unnoticed.

But it was no less significant.

It's the same for us. We are surrounded by people who get more notice. But we should not let that take away from the significance of what we do. When we seek to please God in whatever we do—however mundane the task may seem—we bring glory to Him. And that is significant.

John the Baptist had a thriving ministry, and he was drawing the crowds. But then Jesus showed up, and the people started flocking to Him. John's supporters were concerned for John's sake, and they said, "Rabbi, the one you testified about, and who was with you across the Jordan, is baptizing—and everyone is going to him" (John 3:26).

John had the right attitude. He was doing what God has called him to, and that was enough for him. His role was to point to Jesus, and he said: "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

When we are having a Harriet Quimby moment and feeling overlooked, keep in mind that God is the audience. He is the One who sees, and He is the One who matters.

Others may never notice the wonderful things you do, but God does.

"Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Cor. 15:58).