

*There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?*

—John 6:9

“Nothing is little in God’s service,” wrote George Herbert, the English poet and Anglican priest. “If it once have the honour of that Name, it grows great instantly.”

Most of the days I have served God have not been filled with big moments, dramatic flourishes, recognition or accolades. Most days have been filled with small things: speaking a kind word, crafting a sermon, working on a newsletter, recruiting a church school teacher. The days are filled with taking communion to a lonely man whose wife of sixty years recently died, praying with people who are unemployed and then calling to see if they might have a lead on a job, writing a thank-you note and then another, saying my prayers, breaking the bread and drinking the cup.

These are the daily practices of love and service that never make headlines but do, day by day, help heal a hurting world. George Herbert is right. I believe it with all my heart: Nothing is little in God’s service. Everything we do (well, almost everything) becomes great when we offer it to God. To learn that and remember it is a spiritual practice for our entire lives.

—Gay Clark Jennings