

As a proud child of the 90s, one of my favorite songs is entitled “All the Small Things” by Blink-182, which is an American punk rock band. If I had to summarize one of the main themes of today’s Gospel, I would use the same title as the 1999 hit song, “All the Small Things.”

In today’s Gospel, our Lord Jesus emphasizes “all the small things” when He says, “The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones.” Clearly from His words, our Lord Jesus considers all the small things in life to be great things for the sake of our relationship with Him—for the sake of our sanctification and salvation.

In fact, at *every moment of every day of our life* and in *everything we do*, the Holy Spirit is inviting us to grow closer to Him *in all the small things*. In reality, what we as human creatures consider being small things, God considers to be *great things*, in that such small things can be pathways to the greatness of holiness! What we as human creatures might consider being insignificant and meaningless, God

considers to be *indispensable and meaningful* for the sake of our sanctification and salvation!

Brothers and sisters, there's a very important truth we must repeatedly learn as we go through life and live our relationship with Christ *in and through* His Church: *nothing goes to waste with God!* The fact that God can use *anything*, especially *all the small things* in our lives, to sanctify us and make us saints is an awesome and rejuvenating reality! God is *so powerful* and *so good* that He can use *anything*, even the most seemingly mundane, burdensome, and annoying tasks in our lives to make us holy and help us to grow in faith, hope, and love.

If we see as God sees, then the all small things become great things—and not only that, but if we cooperate with the grace of the Holy Spirit, then the small things can also prepare us to do greater things for Christ and others! And the greatest thing we can do for Christ and others is to love and allow ourselves to *be* loved.

So what are the all small things in our life? What are the small things in our life that we do on a daily basis and take for granted? What

are all the small things in life that we might find burdensome, insignificant, or annoying? Or maybe they're small things that we *do enjoy* but maybe don't see them in their fullness as pathways of grace and sanctification and opportunities to encounter the living God.

Some of the small things in our life may include: taking out the trash, washing the dishes, fixing things around the house, changing lightbulbs, making beds, mowing the lawn, going to the supermarket for groceries, cleaning, vacuuming, doing laundry, weeding, cooking, doing yardwork, raking the leaves, watering the plants, walking the dog, painting, doing household chores or projects, etc.

For many mothers and fathers, the small things include changing diapers, packing lunches, putting band-aids on boos-boos, cleaning up messes and spills, etc. And I haven't even mentioned all the small things that we do in the context of our daily work and employment (that can be a whole other world of small things). Brothers and sisters, in the eyes of many, these things might be small, *but in the eyes of God these small things can lead to great holiness!* What we might think is burdensome, frustrating, and annoying, God sees as a grace-filled

pathway to sanctity! What we might see as a waste of time, God sees as an *opportune time* to sanctify us, teach us, and help us to grow in virtue. ***Remember, nothing goes to waste with God! So yes, that means taking out the trash, doing laundry, changing diapers, and weeding can help make us saints!***

St. Josemaria Escriva, the great 20th-century Spanish saint eloquently said, “Everything in which we poor men have a part—even holiness—is a fabric of *small trifles, which depending upon one’s intention*, can form a magnificent tapestry of heroism or of degradation, of virtues or of sins. The epic legends always relate extraordinary adventures, but never fail to mix them with homely details about the hero. May you always attach great importance to the little things. ***This*** is the way!”

Brothers and sisters, what are our daily attitudes and intentions toward all the small things in our life? Do we approach the small things with *faith* or with *frustration*? Do we see the small things as ***God sees them***, which are opportunities for growth in holiness and love? Are we open to the grace of the Holy Spirit in the midst of the small things in

our lives? Or do we allow anger, selfishness, fatigue, laziness, and boredom to close us off to the beautiful and sanctifying work of God in the midst of all the small things? Brothers and sisters, to see the small things as creative, divine pathways of grace and sanctification is to *live life to the full* with love, joy, hope, and courage!

Obviously, this is easier said than done, especially when you have to do the small things after a long, stressful day of work. But with God's grace, all things are possible and the more we open ourselves up to the Holy Spirit and depend entirely on His grace, the easier it becomes to cooperate with His plan for us, especially in the midst of all the small things that are seemingly mundane and burdensome.

One of the favorite mottos of St. Teresa of Calcutta was "*Do small things with great love.*" Brothers and sisters, if I could add to that beautiful quote of Mother Teresa by saying that *it's better to do small things with great love than to do big, great things with no love!* If we do small things with great love for God and others, *then we will become saints*—the best version of ourselves. If we can do all the small things

with great love, then we will be better prepared, with total dependence upon God's grace, to handle the bigger things when they come our way.

When our beloved patron, St. Ignatius of Loyola, established the Society of Jesus, also known as the Jesuits, in 1540 to renew the Church, he would constantly instruct his missionary priests to go out and "find God in all things!" And not only that, but St. Ignatius always emphasized the importance of *doing all things* "for the greater glory of God"—"*Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam.*"

Brothers and sisters, as disciples of our Lord Jesus, we are called to love and serve God in all things, large and small! We're call to find God in all things, large and small! If we do this and allow our merciful and gracious Lord to sanctify us through all the small things, then we will be doing a great thing that will lead to eternal happiness in Heaven!

Our model for all of this is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Himself, Who lived most of His earthly life in hidden obscurity, doing all the small things with great love as the faithful and obedient Son of a carpenter in Nazareth in first-century Roman Palestine. Lord Jesus Christ, just as you transform the small things of bread and wine into the

greatness of Your divinity in the Most Holy Eucharist, transform all the small things of our lives into great pathways of sanctification and encounter with You so that we may receive your divine life and become the saints You're calling us to be, Amen.