29th March 2025

Small

"Nothing is too small."
Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

Small things matter. I was in an office with my daughter, getting some car-paperwork sorted. Our salesman went off to source something, and as we sat, we were approached by another member of staff. "If you'd like a coffee or tea," she said cheerily, "please use the machine in the lounge. It's all free. Just help yourselves." We thanked her and headed to the corner of the lounge area, when she called after us, "And I'm sorry we've no biscuits. They were finished yesterday." In mock seriousness I replied, "Not good enough! We should have come in yesterday, then," as big smiles were exchanged.

We were enjoying our coffee while the salesman completed the business, when our coffee-and-tea lady reappeared, brandishing two chocolate biscuits. "You looked *so* disappointed," she said, "I nicked these from the mechanics' coffee-room. Not a word, mind, or I'll get my head in my hands. But anyway, enjoy!" And we *did* enjoy! A pleasant coffee, cheery and efficient staff – and two chocolate biscuits. A good morning had by all.

Two chocolate biscuits, from the mechanics' coffee-room? No big deal, you say. But actually, it *was.* Courtesy, friendliness, humour, good customer-service … all topped off with two chocolate biscuits. A small thing? Well, maybe. But did it make a big difference? You bet it did!

The writer, Ian McEwan, offers this thought in his novel, *Saturday.*

> *On a recent Sunday evening, Theo came up with an aphorism: the bigger you think, the crappier it looks. "When we go on about the big things," he said, "the political situation, global warming, world poverty, it all looks really terrible, with nothing getting better, nothing to look forward to. But when I think small, closer in – you know, a girl I've just met, or this song we're going to do with Chas, or snowboarding next month, then it looks great. So this is going to be my motto – think small."*

The big things – the "crappier" things – we're dealing with just now can feel so overwhelming. So, might we notice the small things today? Will we value them, see their significance, appreciate what they're doing for us? And can we offer *our* small thing to someone, a courtesy, a smile, a thank you, a well-done? I hope so – even if no chocolate biscuits change hands!

A prayer for today

Loving God, help me to think "closer in" and give thanks for what I find there. Amen

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