

[Forward this act to a friend](#)

[Can't see this email? View in your browser](#)

 brought to you by:
stewardship®



Act 13: Needs Must

by **Chine McDonald**

Crumbs on the counter. Grime in the mugs. Someone else's dishes in the office sink for days. What an opportunity for day-to-day, ongoing generosity – dull, grey acts of kindness that don't get you any 'points'. Make no mistake, taking responsibility for someone else's mundane problems is generosity that makes a difference.

"...[W]hoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

(Mark 10:43–45 NIV)

There is a cheeky sign above one of the kitchen sinks in my office which always makes me laugh: 'The maid is off today. So please do your own washing up.' I agree that it's infuriating to see dirty crockery and cutlery in the sink at work. I can't believe that anyone would think such behaviour was acceptable – to leave items in the hopes that someone else can do your dirty work. On the days when I arrive at work already shattered from having successfully got a toddler dressed, fed and off to the childminder before commuting in, the sight of these abandoned plates and mugs makes me despair. But on my most generous days – when life feels a little less hectic – I might take the time to quietly wash these dishes rather than huff and puff and think bad thoughts about my colleagues.

Doing small, good deeds like this without ceremony and without thanks is not only the kind thing to do, but it feels good too. But this is not about being 'holier than thou' – a saintly washer-upper. Instead, I would like to think that someone would do this for me. It reminds me that I too – literally – mess up sometimes. For all have sinned and left their washing up in the sink. I am no better than anyone else. Christ's suggestion that we should be servant-hearted in this way is what makes the Christian faith so radical. What a wonderful thing it is to think about others more than you think about yourself, and to reflect the radical generosity of our Creator God.



Chine heads up the media team at [Christian Aid](#). Prior to that, she was at World Vision and director of communications at the Evangelical Alliance. She read theology at Cambridge University before training as a newspaper journalist. Chine is a regular speaker and writer on race, faith and gender and a regular broadcaster for BBC Religion & Ethics programmes such as Thought for the Day, the Daily Service, Pause for Thought and Prayer for the Day. Chine lives in London with her husband, Mark, and their young son.

[READ MORE & ADD YOUR IDEAS](#)

Choose how to complete this act...



GREEN OPTION:

Clean the office sink (or staffroom sink, or church sink).



YELLOW OPTION:

Take responsibility for an undone chore where you live, at church, or at the workplace.



RED OPTION:

Take responsibility for an undone chore for the entire month.

Tell us what you're up to today

Share your stories, ideas and adventures using #40acts on social media.

Hit reply to this email and let us know how you're getting on!





About Stewardship

We help you give and we strengthen the causes you give to. Since 1906 we have provided advice, inspiration and practical tools to make it simple for people to give and receive tax effectively.

**MAKING
GIVING
EASY**

**INSPIRING
GREATER
GENEROSITY**

**STRENGTHENING
CHRISTIAN
CAUSES**



[Change my preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

Stewardship is the operating name of Stewardship Services (UKET) Limited. Established in 1906. Registered charity no. 234714, and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England no. 90305. Registered office:
1 Lamb's Passage, London, EC1Y 8AB

[Privacy Notice](#)