

Goethe once said, 'One cannot always be a hero, but one can always be a man.' We may not be a glorified hero, but we can be involved every day in what I might call 'microheroism'. It seems a shame that everyone gets moist eyes when the hero sacrifices his life to save someone from a terrible fate, and everyone wants to be like them. But we when it comes to the tiniest personal sacrifice, like letting someone in front of us in the grocery line, we simply will not do it. We need to realize that the principle is the same. If we cannot do heroic acts on a small scale, at little cost to us, then it is doubtful that we will be able to do it on the large scale. Naturally, the importance of the consequences of the situation is a great motivating factor, but I believe it may be more significant if we are 'microheroes' on the long term. As Laurence Peter says, 'Be your own hero'. That means that we should make the use of even the smallest of opportunities. Buttrick in his book Parables states that Jesus has always sounded the heroic call. We must listen to it and respond. Who knows but we might be able to spur someone else on, too. Helen Hayes says that 'We relish news of our heroes, forgetting that we are extraordinary to somebody, too'. God does not expect giant leaps from us, but a steady plodding along, even if the steps are quite small.