

“You’re the one who makes things out of other things, right?”

~A different character in every MacGyver episode ever

One of my vices in this world is cheesy TV crime dramas. *NCIS*, *CSI*, *Hawaii 5-0*, and lately, the newest iteration of *MacGyver*. I can't help it. I'm addicted to the will-they, won't-they romances between the annoying, over-confident man child and the Uber competent woman who always gets the bad guy. I love the camp of it all — the impossible technology, the heightened melodrama, the contrived plots filled with secret government conspiracies and almost-apocalypses. It's brain candy when too much else in the world makes no sense. There's comfort in the fact that Gibbs will get the bad guy or MacGyver will save the world with a paper clip. And well, lately, I'll take my comfort where I can get it.

And while I wouldn't call watching crime dramas a spiritual discipline, it seems to me that there are some spiritual lessons to be gleaned.

1. Everybody needs a team. Screenwriters may call it family, but when it is a faith community gathered to pray and worship, we call it the Body of Christ. In the Body, we are called to love, to welcome, to advocate for justice, to feed the hungry, and visit the prisoner. And no one does it alone. Part of being a follower of Christ is learning to love our neighbors, together.
2. Making something out of nothing, making a way out of no-way is what God does. God may or may not use a paper clip to wring life from death, but God's leaders, biblical and otherwise, are most often the last people you would have chosen. Sometimes they're people you never knew existed at all. Sometimes, that person is you. The Holy Spirit moves in unpredictable ways, calling us into ministry using the gifts we have and the odd parts in front of us.
3. Hope lives at the Lord's Table. The end of any good episode finds our heroes gathered to celebrate their victory and reaffirm their bonds. Be it the diner in *Bones* or Mac's back deck, drinks are poured, bread broken, and wisdom shared. All are fed, ready to be sent out into the world once again.

May God call you into ministry with the people around you, using the tools in front of you, and whatever table you find at the end. Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor Heather