

WD November 11, 2024

“Giving Thanks for the Mundane”

I think that Jesus does his best work in the mundane things; the average every day stuff; stuff that we consider boring, earthly, and routine. Getting up at 6AM in the morning. Getting cleaned up and dressed in Monday’s usual outfit. Doing the same exercises at the gym four days a week. Waking up the kids and getting them ready for the day at school. Then getting them off of the bus, doing homework. Trying to decide where to eat for lunch after church on Sunday.

God often meets His people in the mundane. Judges 6 Gideon was threshing wheat in a wine press to hide it from the Midianites. It was mundane. He had likely been doing this for some time. And it was in this moment that the angel of the Lord came to him changing everything.

In 1 Samuel 16 the prophet Samuel went to the house of Jesse to anoint a new king. He didn’t choose any of Jesse’s oldest sons, strong and able as they may have been. Jesse finally had to call David in from the fields where he was shepherding the sheep, something David had likely done all his life. Routine, basic, ordinary, and exactly what the Lord wanted. Vs. 13 tells us, “So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David.”

In 1 Kings 19 Elijah calls Elisha. Elisha was out in the field plowing the field. Likely something he had done since he was a boy. Elijah puts his cloak on Elisha and Elisha is anointed to be the next prophet.

Imagine. Jesus lived a very mundane life until He began His public ministry. Mary and Joseph lived and worked in Nazareth. Seeing Jesus was so common that those who saw Him grow up rejected His claims to be Messiah and even threatened to throw Jesus from the cliff. Life in Nazareth was normal. Get dressed. Go to work. Come home and eat. Calloused hands from work. Talking about the day at work. Catching up on the latest gossip of a small-town life. Making annual trips to Jerusalem for Passover. All of it was so ordinary and plain. Yet Jesus was there in the mundane as much as He was anywhere.

Later the Lord would preach the Sermon on the Mount touting the importance of faithfulness in the ordinary days. Tell the truth. Do not lust in your heart. Do not worry about food or clothes because God knows you need them. If he takes care of the birds one sees every day how much more all of us who are worth much more than sparrows. Jesus’s parables were about ordinary things, farms, food for the body, grapevines, vineyards, workers, and money. Usually, mundane things but then Jesus turned those ordinary, plain things into ways in which we can see the Kingdom of God itself.

Mundane things are familiar things. Within them God is doing something. The ordinary things that pass our day in routine and plainness are gifts to us. It is a gift to have clothes to wear and food to eat, company to share, and work to complain about. It is a gift to drive a car that works and to change a baby. It is a privilege to be in church, to have and read a Bible, to pray, and even to go to eat after church with our families. Mundane things are excellent reminders that we have it pretty good. They are familiar things. Don’t we want to be familiar with Jesus who gives us all things? Of course. Look then at the mundane.

It’s thanksgiving. If Thanksgiving is anything it is recognizing that the mundane stuff is mundane and familiar because it’s there. Without it what would we be missing? Likely, much. I just want to encourage you this month and this time of year to give thanks for the mundane. I would encourage you to give thanks because as in passages that I have mentioned before God comes to His people in the mundane. Jesus as an ordinary looking man in Nazareth. Gideon became a champion for the Lord first by doing the ordinary. That’s big stuff I grant you. Yet, remember how changing diapers, playing with your kids, being with them, showing up for them, how much that can impact them.

Imagine the grandmother of Jesse was Ruth. She stayed with Naomi out of devotion and loyalty. It was ordinary and plain—what she did. She got married to Boaz. Had kids, changed diapers, fed the baby, bounced Obed on her knee, perhaps had to fix a boo-boo. She may have held her grandson, baby Jesse and cared for him as grandmothers do. From Jesse we have David. We all know David. What impact your simple life may have should never be underestimated when it rests in the hands of Jesus. Your child may be the very person God uses to become the very instrument to bring someone to faith.

It's thanksgiving. I encourage you to give thanks for the mundane. The little things that you do each day. There is much good and grace in all of it. Mundane things accumulate to make your day a blessing, and a blessing to Your family. God is in the mundane. He always has been. May God bless you.

Pastor Matt Woods
John 3:30