

November 2007—Ordinary Days

I've been thinking a lot about ordinary days, probably because I have so many of them. In fact, I'm having one today. While there is much to accomplish, nothing spectacular is happening. (Don't misunderstand; I don't mean boring, unproductive, or unimportant in the least!) In light of this, I appreciate the fact that, "*This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it*" (Ps 118.24). Yet even a day like *that* can still sometimes spell "ordinary."

Like most of you, I enjoy the extraordinary. My adventuresome nature takes pleasure in unexpected opportunities and exciting activities that have no other explanation than the mighty hand of God. I'm glad He allows us to experience and revel in some of those!

Yet I freely admit the majority of my days are uneventful, ordinary ones. That's no newsflash, because it is true of all of us. Know this too—we are in good company—we share this common denominator with the great Biblical heroes.

When I dig into the exciting Biblical narratives, I love to use my sanctified imagination. What a thrill to see how the Lord used people in spectacular ways. However, if we carefully study, I believe we will conclude that in between those action-packed days were hundreds and hundreds of run-of-the-mill ordinary ones. Think it through—Moses? Elijah? David? Barak? Yes indeed. What about Jehoshaphat the king of Judah from whom we learn this powerful truth . . . "*be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's*" (2 Chron 20:15). Yes, even him.

Years ago, convinced that since most of my days were likely going to be ordinary ones, my challenge then was to remain faithful to God when nothing spectacular was going on. *Recently*, I concluded that unplanned tasks involving people or circumstances fill up about 80% of my time. For some, this realization could be a source of aggravation and frustration. For me, it has instead served as a basis of great blessing: I'm forced to constantly reprioritize to make sure my time—ordinary or spectacular—is used wisely for Him.

Who knows...as we remain faithful to our Lord in this *ordinary* day, perhaps He'll allow some *extraordinary* opportunities. But that's not the point. TODAY we have an opportunity to serve God in the so-called "little things," and I for one am looking forward to many more ordinary opportunities!

Be encouraged to know that ordinary accomplishments count for eternity when we do our work for the Lord. Are you faithful to God in *your* ordinary days?

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