

When my ordinary meets God's EXTRA

Thankful Bumper

Welcome: HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

I want to talk to you about our Texas Rangers!

Texas Rangers Parade

A few weeks ago there was a huge parade honoring our world series champion Texas Rangers. Thousands gathered to cheer.

There was no parade last year... why?

- 68-94
- Missed the playoffs
- Coach fired mid-season
- Not an extra-ordinary year... an ordinary year

The Ordinary

We don't often celebrate the ordinary.

Appreciate...

Thankful...

Ordinary is often looked past.

- People
- Skill
- Gifts
- Time

We often celebrate the EXTRA-ORDINARY. But there is a problem with that...

What was EXTRA-ORDINARY over time becomes ordinary.

Our thankfulness can diminish over time...

There are no further parades planned for the 2023 Texas Rangers' World Series win. Everyone has already moved on and focused on next year.

Over time the extra-ordinary can become ordinary.

- Job
- Relationships
- Miracles

What we used to throw a parade for...

What we used to rejoice over...

What we were once thankful for...

What we once recognized as Extra-ordinary can become ordinary.

And who celebrates the ordinary?

Jesus celebrates the ordinary.

When we read about Jesus we see someone who celebrates the ordinary. Jesus often stops and appreciates what others overlooked. Can you think of any examples?

His disciples are “ordinary men.” In Acts 4 Peter & John are called unschooled, ordinary men... These are stinky fishermen that everyone would look past...

But Jesus calls ordinary people to be his extra-ordinary disciples. These followers of Jesus will be celebrated forever. Revelation 21:14 says their names are written on the foundation of new Jerusalem. Jesus throws parades for the ordinary.

Jesus looks at crowds of ordinary people and says extra-ordinary things like – “You are the light of the world.” (Matt 5:14)

There is a story of “the widow's mite.” An ordinary widow came and brought the 2 smallest coins as an offering. She brought 2 pennies and gave it. No one

noticed... no one celebrated... it was such a small gift.

BUT JESUS... He noticed and celebrated. He threw a parade. In Luke 21 Jesus stops everything. He gets everyone's attention and he declares that the widow's offering is better than anyone else's.

Most people look past the ordinary, but Jesus throws parades for the ordinary.

If you feel ordinary, I have great news for you today. Jesus celebrates you.

If feel looked past today, I am happy to tell you, "Jesus sees you."

John 6 tells us about an ordinary moment and an ordinary meal.

John 6:5 NIV

[5] When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"

John 6:7 NIV

[7] Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

John 6:8-10 NIV

[8] Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, [9] “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” [10] Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.”

Everything about this story is ordinary.

People get hungry - ordinary.

A small amount of food - ordinary meal.

John 6:11 NIV

[11] Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

Jesus takes the loaves and does what? Gave thanks.

GIVE THANKS

Jesus it is just some bread... It is not just some bread when you give thanks! It is a special offering.

Jesus it is just some fish... It is not just some fish when you give thanks! It is a gift.

You might be happier about your job if you GAVE THANKS for your job.

You might be happier about your health if you GAVE THANKS for your health.

You might be happier about your possessions if you GAVE THANKS for them.

Jesus receives something so ordinary and he GAVE THANKS.

The crowd needed so much more than 5 loaves and 2 fish... but Jesus gave thanks anyway.

Can we be thankful even when we don't have enough? Jesus was.

Thankfulness, Celebration, and Appreciation are powerful. Do you know the result of ordinary thankfulness?

The result of ordinary thankfulness is extra-ordinary.

The result was extra-ordinary. The entire crowd of over 5 thousand was fed. We are told that there was more left over than what was given.

Jesus was handed a small basket, but the left overs were collected in 12 large baskets.

Your ordinary becomes extra-ordinary in the hands of Jesus.

Your ordinary becomes extra-ordinary when you give thanks.

What is your Ordinary?

What do you have that is ordinary?

Have you given thanks for it?

Have you placed it in the hands of Jesus?

3 ordinary areas you might need to give thanks for.

Time, Talent, Treasure

You can do extraordinary things with your ordinary time, talent, & treasure.

Jeff Webster

Aimee Flynn

Pastor Brian Layman

Kids

First Christian Church

God wants us to do extraordinary together.

Eph 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

We should be thankful. We should throw more parades. We should be thankful for each other.

Musicians

What are you thankful for?