

UNORDINARY USABILITY

The Art of Being Unordinary: Part Three

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What made Noah Usable?

1. He was AVAILABLE.

The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil.... "I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth..." But Noah found favor with the LORD. (Genesis 6:5–8, NLT)

"The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him." (2 Chronicles 16:9a, NLT)

2. He was CREDIBLE.

"...Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God." (Genesis 6:9, NLT)

"If anyone makes himself or herself clean from all those evil things, they will be used for special purposes, because they are dedicated and useful to their Master, ready to be used for every good deed." (2 Timothy 2:21, GNB)

3. He was TEACHABLE.

"So, Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him." (Genesis 6:22, NLT)

"When everything was ready, the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the boat with all your family, for among all the people of the earth, I can see that you alone are righteous." (Genesis 7:1, NLT)

What Keeps us from being Usable?

We allow subtle SETTLEMENT in our life.

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.” (John 10:10, NIV)

1. We settle for more of the world rather than all of JESUS.

*“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth,”
(Colossians 3:2, NRS)*

*“Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus has gone to Dalmatia.”
(2 Timothy 4:10, NLT)*

2. We settle for immediate gratification instead of long-term PURPOSE.

“Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. So, let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.” (Galatians 6:8-9, NLT)

““Look, I’m dying of starvation!” said Esau. “What good is my birthright to me now?” But Jacob said, “First you must swear that your birthright is mine.” So, Esau swore an oath, thereby selling all his rights as the firstborn to his brother, Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and lentil stew. Esau ate the meal, then got up and left. He showed contempt for his rights as the firstborn.” (Genesis 25:32-34, NLT)

3. We settle for good when God offers GREAT.

“God can do anything, you know - far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.” (Ephesians 3:20, MSG)

“Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt... So, Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.” (Genesis 13:10-13, NIV)

ACTION STEP

Your three goals to move from good to great:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

“Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?” I said, “Here I am. Send me.”” (Isaiah 6:8, NLT)