

Ordinary Moments Into Extraordinary Opportunity

Acts 3 and 4

Introduction:

A. Welcome and Scripture Reader

B. Review

C. Today: Ordinary Moments Into Extraordinary Opportunities

I Ordinary Moments Are Full Of Opportunities - 3:1-5

A. Several ordinary things are happening here: 3:1-5

1. Peter and John are going to the temple to pray.
2. A crippled man from birth is being brought in to beg.

B. Two ordinary events that become

1. Divinely appointed intersections
2. Divinely appointed interactions.

C. Start to notice opportunities to speak Jesus to right where you are.

1. What are our ordinary moments?
2. What are the ordinary places you go where opportunities may be right in front of you?

D. Where ever you find yourself. Whoever you find yourself with, see it as an opportunity to for God to use you to touch a life.

1. What do we see? – people needing Jesus
2. What do we share? – the gospel
3. How do we get to spiritual conversation? Like they did. Kindness, encouragement, courtesy
 - a. As the apostle Paul wrote *Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.* (Phil 4:5).
 - b. See ordinary moments in your life as opportunity to speak life, to encourage, to provide comfort, support, extend an invite, and share Jesus.

4. We never know, where the moments may lead us.

E. Many time ordinary opportunities lead to extraordinary moments. In this case there were three.

II Extraordinary Opportunity #1: A Life is Changed - 3:6-10

A. A life was changed when...

1. Truth and life are spoken – 3:6
2. Touch and help were extended and accepted - 3:7a
3. The Lord healed - 3:7b -

- B. The extraordinary moments in which the Lord involves us ...
 - 1. May not be this publically dramatic or quick, but they are no less powerful.
 - 2. If you've ever been used by God to share the gospel, touch and help a life, and see the healing that takes place, you know that it is no less powerful and dramatic.
- C. The result
 - 1. God was glorified - 3:8
 - 2. People were amazed - 3:9-10

III Extraordinary Opportunity #2: The Gospel Is Proclaimed – 3:11-16

- A. What started as an act of kindness shown to someone who couldn't walk, turned into a full blown opportunity speak the gospel to a crowd.
- B. What started as a normal hour of prayer became a moment to hear the gospel.
- C. God can take what we see as simple and create a spiritual opportunity.
- D. Moments are there...
 - 1. Ask the Lord for eyes to see the moments.
 - 2. When the doors are open have the boldness to walk through them.

IV Extraordinary Opportunity #3: Boldness and Courage Are Regained And Gained- 4:1-22

- A. What started as an attempt to intimidate was transformed into a moment of boldness and courage. - 4:1-12
- B. This is a special moment for Peter.
 - 1. Just a few months before he declares his allegiance, ask to have prominence in his kingdom, and denies he ever knew him.
 - 2. After the resurrection, he appears a bit sheepish. We see the interaction of restoration in John 21.
 - 3. We see him in Acts 2 proclaiming Jesus. The momentum is gaining.
 - 4. Now he is before the same people that killed Jesus and he doesn't back down this time.
 - 5. Boldness and courage are regained for Peter. It's amazing what a resurrected Lord and Holy Spirit filled disciple who is forgiven.
 - a. Don't let your past denials and failure steal your boldness of sharing Jesus. You are forgiven and restored by a resurrected Lord and filled and empowered with the Holy Spirit.
 - b. We are in a great company of deniers and doubters that spoke with courage and boldness.

- C. How did they get there? 4:13
 - 1. Spending time with Jesus builds this courage and boldness.
 - 2. Their sharing wasn't rehearsed.
 - 3. They could have not predicted this moment would happen. It was who they were.
 - 4. Jesus told them when the time came they would know what to say (Mark 13:11).
- D. The threat – 4:14-18 (Read 18) Don't speak any more in the name of Jesus.
 - 1. Threats to the gospel are not new.
 - 2. Unfortunately this is the norm for many of our brothers and sisters around the world.
 - 3. The gamut is wide. From avoidance, ridicule or negativity about the Christ, to deranged people who kill Christians and think they are doing the right thing.
- E. The choice 4:19-22
 - 1. Chose Commitment to God over Coercion from the enemy - "we will obey God"
 - 2. Chose Conviction over Compromise - "we cannot help speaking..."
- F. Not just a moment for Peter. It was a moment for all believers. Boldness and courage are contagious.
 - 1. This boldness and courage would create a momentum that would continue. Set a precedent for the future
 - 2. Historically, every attempt to stop the message of Jesus has only caused it to grow.

Conclusion: (The Take Home)

- A. Multiply, disciples making disciples, still happens today.
- B. God still take ordinary people in ordinary situations and turns them into extraordinary opportunities.
 - 1. In our Jerusalem – locally
 - 2. In our Judea – state and region
 - 3. In our Samaria – our nations
 - 4. In our world - One Kingdom Partners in every part of the world the world.
 - 5. We are especially blessed with an active and vibrant live stream community that touches lives all through their Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria.

C. Our challenge:

1. Spend time with Jesus. Ordinary and routine moments with Jesus have an extraordinary change in your life. Quiet times alone and times with other believers.
2. Pray for eyes to see the ordinary opportunities to share Jesus.
3. Share Jesus. He is the one who has the power to transform a life.
4. Be bold and brave. The enemy wants to intimidate.
5. When we do this, people will take note that we have been with Jesus.
6. Give God the glory.

D. Pray and offer invite...