

Courageous: Part 1- Not what you expected.

1 Samuel 16:1-13

I. ME

A. Welcome/Online

II. WE

A. Deep down, we all want an ordinary life.

1. "No way... I want to be different I want to make a difference."

B. We all want our own version of an ordinary life.

1. The way we think our life should go.
2. School, job, married, white picket fence
3. Education, career, promotions, money
4. Love, marriage, kids, old together
5. Independence- Adventure- Exceptional life
6. We all have the idea of what things SHOULD be like... the ordinary life.
7. The Ordinary life is safe, easy, it means we are in control and things are going according to plan...

C. Don't believe me? How do you react when...

1. Your routine gets thrown off?
2. Your plans don't work out?
3. Your expectations aren't met?
4. When you look back on what you hoped your life would be?
5. When your whole life that you have put together comes crashing down?

D. Ordinary is a myth.

1. You don't control what happens to our around you. And never will.
2. We fight and struggle and worry for something that is impossible to have.
3. There is always a threat to your ordinary life.
4. It's an impossible dream

E. So, What if we gave up ordinary?

1. What if we refused to try to hang on to the dream of whatever our ordinary is?
2. What if we threw away our plans and saw each day as another step on an adventure that we can't control?
3. What if we chose a courageous life and defied the ordinary?

F. One of the most courageous people in recorded history lived 3000 yrs. ago

1. David (historical figure)
2. Shepherd, poet, warrior, king, united the tribes of Israel and make a nation.
3. But to really understand his story we have to start long before he comes onto the stage...

G. Israel History recap

1. Abraham- promise to bless world through
2. Enslavement
3. Escape Egypt/ Roam for 40 yrs.
4. Conquer-Settle- God is king- Judges-
5. Samuel
6. People- We want to be ordinary (like everyone else)
7. Saul – Big Strong. Typical
8. Samuel's problem
 - a. Disaster- now what?

III. GOD (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

- A. Ancient Historical Document (Real people/Real places)
- B. Israel's on the edge of a cliff
 1. The "What if's" are overwhelming/paralyzing...
 2. Usual outcomes of losing king- Destabilization- Civil/Tribal War
 3. They are surrounded by brutal enemies
 4. Entire nation could be wiped out and assimilated

C. V. 1a (First sentence)

1. Samuel mourning for what could have been... unified/strong/peaceful... ordinary
 - a. Not what he had expected/planned/hoped for/ dreams are crashing down.
 - b. "What do I do now!?"
2. What do WE normally do? What's our ORDINARY response...
 - a. Complain, blame, try to control, always wish for what could've been?
3. God- "How long are you gonna dwell on what could've been?"
 - a. Mourn/Sadness- Yes.
 - b. Dwell/Obsess/"What if" to death?- No
4. God is never at a loss for what to do...
 - a. God- "Uh oh... didn't see that coming." ??

D. V. 1b (Rest of verse)

1. God- "Saul has been disqualified... Saul is the one the people wanted. The ordinary choice... I have a better plan."

2. Our ordinary dreams are often terrible realities.

- a. HS Boy-Girlfriend/Job or house you didn't get

3. God- "you wanted what was ordinary... Let's do extraordinary."

E. V. 2-3

1. An ordinary life sees the problem, not the solution

2. Opposite of fear is faith/trust
3. Fear sees the cliff- trust sees the rope--- Faith creates courage.
4. Ex. Driving in snow with Dad.

5. Trusting God produces a courageous life.

6. God- "Don't worry about Saul I've got this covered."
7. Gave Samuel enough to take the next step...
8. We don't always get the whole plan (almost never)... our job is to courageously trust and take a step...

F. V. 4a. (First sentence)

1. Samuel defied fear/ordinary reaction and trusted that God had a plan.
2. He chose the courage that comes with trusting.

G. V. 4b-6

1. Eliab- Oldest brother... big dude had "the look". Usual/Ordinary choice.
 - a. God- "That's how you got Saul"
2. Side Note for Today--- theme throughout this story... "I don't want the ordinary choice... I want the extraordinary heart."
3. Usually people go for natural ability... God uses unnatural character
4. What's your heart look like? Courageously trusting? Or Ordinary?

H. V. 7-10- Nope nope nope

I. V. 11a (1st Sentence)

1. Ok God what's the deal? There's gotta be someone else...

J. V. 11b

1. This son was so off of the usual that his father didn't even bother to bring him.
2. Not what people would ordinarily expect.

K. V. 12-13

1. God knew what He was doing all along.
2. God had planned for David from eternity past-
3. Before Saul/Samuel/Joshua/Moses... David was His chosen king.
4. Never out of control.
5. Didn't make sense/ no one expected it... but David turned into the greatest Israel's greatest king.
6. And it all started with Samuel choosing to trust that God had a better plan.

7. God's plan is rarely what we expect and always better than what we had hoped.

- L. God loves blowing up the ordinary and giving us the extraordinary we didn't know we wanted.

M. Never clearer than how he restores our relationship with him.

1. Would ordinarily think we would have to do something to earn God's attention.
2. Every other religion says that...
3. Do good to make the god or god's or universe like you
4. Have your good outweigh your bad and good thing will happen (karma)

- N. God has a better plan...

1. "You can never undo your bad... it's there... so I'll take care of it.
2. I'll come and pay for that... I'll die to take the penalty.
3. All you have to do is defy the ordinary of trying to earn my love and have the courage to simply trust that I did everything needed and you are forgiven."

4. And not only do you have my love but you are forever adopted into my family.

IV. YOU

- A. So what happens when **YOUR** ordinary life is smashed?
1. When what you hoped for/wanted falls apart?
 2. Or even when your day or morning isn't going the ordinary way you wanted?
 3. Fear? Anger? Grabbing for control? Complaining that things are so unordinary?
- B. There's a better way.
1. Be courageous... Defy the ordinary
 2. Choose to trust that God has a better plan.
 3. Courageously face what comes.
 4. **Remember: Trusting God creates a courageous life.**
 5. If there is a God, and he is who he says he is and does what he says he will do... what is there to fear or worry about?
- C. **When your "ordinary" doesn't work out** ... this evening, tomorrow... **remind yourself...** **"Things are going according to the plan."**
- D. Trust God and courageously take each day, moment at a time.

V. WE

- A. What if we gave up the daily struggle to keep things ordinary?
- B. What if every difficulty/annoyance/setback was an opportunity to see God's plan work out further?
- C. What if we Stopped looking at the cliffs and grabbed the rope provided for us?

- D. Stopped letting life happen to us and had the courage to walk one step at a time trusting the master plan?
- E. What would that life look like on a daily basis?
- F. Reject the myth of the ordinary life and accept the adventure of the courageous life.**