

Out of the Ordinary: Part 1- Only You
Luke 1:1-5a; 26-38

I. ME

- A. Welcome / Cards/ So What about? / Online
- B. Safe Spaces \$15,028!!!!

II. WE

- A. Holidays are great... break from ordinary.
 - 1. Most of life Routine / Mundane
 - 2. Try to fill it with entertainment (phones) / food / drinks / activities / work... those just become routine or exhausting.
- C. It's why we enjoy holidays
 - 1. Always take us out of the ordinary
 - 2. Dress up Halloween, Leprechauns, Easter Bunnies, Groundhogs, Columbus, Santa.
- D. Who wants ordinary? Why can't we have holidays all the time (Me and Liz, Mr. and Mrs. Claus)
 - 1. There's something in us that says there should be more to life... More to our life.
 - 2. You're the only you
 - 3. **Fred Rogers- You are a very special person. There is only one like you in the whole world. There's never been anyone exactly like you before, and there will never be again. Only you.**
 - 4. I know it might sound corny, but it really is true.
 - 5. **God made you on purpose for a purpose**... so why would he want you to settle for ordinary?
 - 6. Why should our lives be dominated by the mundane and the weak efforts to escape the routine?

- 7. Maybe we miss the extraordinary God wants for us b/c we're so busy trying to distract ourselves?

8. We miss the extraordinary because we think we are stuck in the ordinary.

- E. That's why I think God came up with one of the craziest stories ever told...
 - 1. A story that many people think belongs with Columbus.
 - 2. If you're not a little skeptical I think you haven't really read it.
 - 3. It's the story of God breaking into our ordinary and giving us the extraordinary.
 - 4. Look at it as if for the first time... would you believe it?

III. GOD

- A. Luke
 - 1. 50-60 AD- at most 30 yrs after Jesus' D and R
 - 2. Traveled with Apostle Paul... met a lot of eyewitnesses.

B. 1:1-5a

- 1. No "Once upon a time."
- 2. Luke sets it firmly in history as history
- 3. Something no other myth writers did.
- 4. **Herod**- Herod the Great. Ruled 37-4 BCE. Basically came to power b/c his father was friends with Julius Caesar... long story.
- 5. Sets up the factual history AND THEN talks about crazy things like angels...
- 6. The extraordinary breaking through the ordinary.

7. **Paraphrase J the B announcement.**

8. Stranger still is the story of Mary...

9. Learn- **God meets us in the middle of ordinary life.**

C. 1:26-27

1. In these opening sentences something very interesting is going on...
2. The unbelievably extraordinary is happening hand in hand with the painfully mundane.
3. **Angel** – Gabriel. Talked about in book of Daniel... 600 yrs earlier.
4. **Nazareth**- Population of 400
5. **Joseph**- 3rd most common Jewish male name
6. **Mary**- THE most common Jewish female name.
7. Virgin- That's going to be extraordinary in a minute... also means she's young (teenager).
8. Mary engaged to a nobody... who happens to be a descendent of King David
9. The people in this account are so incredibly ordinary
10. Yet God breaks into their mundane life and brings something extraordinary right alongside it.

11. With God, the extraordinary and the ordinary exist side-by-side

D. V. 28-30

1. One reason I take this story seriously... the people are too real.
2. Mary freaks out! Wouldn't you?
3. **Side note**- Something about angels that always freaks people out.
4. Don't be afraid... ok?
5. "Highly favored, found favor with God..."
6. Doesn't mean she had done anything special, or had earned any special recognition...
7. Means God had chosen her simply b/c he wanted to.
8. Some people have tried to make it super religious and make her extra holy so much so that she stayed a virgin her whole life...
 - a. Jesus little brother, James, might have had something to say about that...
 - b. James, also might be who Luke got all of this inside information from.
9. There was nothing extraordinary about Mary that caused God to choose her... he just did.

10. God chooses to give extraordinary gifts and opportunities to ordinary people.

E. V. 31-33

1. So much history and theology packed into this...
2. Your son will be the one promised to king David- **2 Sam 7:16**
3. **Son of God**- Jewish ears- King, but Son of also carried with it the idea of possessing all the qualities of the father, like a cloned copy.
4. More than Mary could even comprehend at the time.
5. The baby you will have will be the fulfillment of God's promised plan to reunite heaven and earth.
6. Though Mary is a simple teenage peasant... she's no idiot... she knows how babies are made.

F. V. 34

1. Good question

G. V. 35

1. Not at all like other ancient myths where gods came down and impregnated human woman who gave birth to half-gods like Hercules.
2. Through the power of the Holy Spirit- same power that made everything out of nothing... a baby will be conceived.
3. Fully human and fully God.
4. The extraordinary and the ordinary perfectly co-existing in her son

H. V. 36-37

1. Nothing is impossible with God.
2. Stop for a second... That's a big part of this story.
3. It's so far fetched that it seems impossible.
4. But if there is a God... why not? (I'll expand this idea).
5. **If there is a God, what would be impossible for him?**
6. Next is why Mary is pretty cool...

I. V. 38

1. Teenage girl, visited by a freaky angel, told she's going to give birth to the chosen One...
2. All of the consequences that implies...
3. Fiancé, unwed mother, could face stoning, small village, giving birth in ancient middle east, w/o support of family, income?
4. Mary- Ok sounds good, I'm in!
5. God offered her something beyond belief and instead of asking the what if's and the what about's... she simply trusted and her life was never the same.
6. Her life was used to bring about the focal point of all of human history... all b/c she chose to accept the extraordinary.
7. She chose to play her part.
8. He does the same for us... see it in a minute

9. An extraordinary life can begin with a simple yes.

J. Mary-

1. Typical, common, ancient Middle Eastern peasant teenage girl.
2. Doing typical, common, ancient Middle Eastern peasant teenage girl stuff...
3. In a typical, common, small ancient Middle Eastern village...
4. Has her ordinary world transformed by God's extraordinary plan.
5. She experienced God's love and purpose in a life saturated with the mundane.
6. God met her the way he meets everyone... right in the middle of ordinary life.
7. She had the courage to accept it.
8. Do we?

IV. YOU

- A. Wants to do the same for you... not virgin birth.
 1. God created you on purpose for a purpose.
 2. You are not an accident.
 3. You are not just a random offspring of an impersonal natural selection.
- B. There is only one you... you are not ordinary
 1. So why settle for an ordinary life?
 2. Why settle for just getting by and only dipping your toe into the extraordinary every time there's some kind of holiday?
 3. Why not experience the extraordinary God created you for?
- C. What am I supposed to do?
 1. It's not like we're all going to get an angel to come tells us exactly what part we have to play in God's plan.
 2. Mary had it easy...
 3. Maybe look a little harder... ask a couple of **extraordinary questions...**

D. #1 What is it that only you can do?

1. There are certain things, certain purposes only you can fulfill.
2. Only Mary could deliver and raise this Son of God... she accepted it and dove into it.

E. Me as an example...

1. I am the only husband I have
2. I am the only father my kids have
3. You can find another pastor
4. So my main extraordinary purpose is my family.
5. I can choose to see my family as simply mundane obligations or as a God given purpose that only I can fulfill.
6. And though you can find another pastor... for right now (maybe next 30 yrs) God has me here as the lead pastor.
7. I'm the only one (right now) that can fulfill that purpose...
8. There can be other guest speakers at other churches, there can be other people running other ministries... right now there can only be one lead pastor of CCC.
9. That is a purpose that only I can fulfill.
10. So one of my secondary purposes is to help create a church for people who don't normally go to church.
11. Where has God put you and what is it that only you can do right now?

F. #2 What do you need to cheat in order to fulfill your purpose?

1. We all have 24 hrs in a day.
2. When we choose to use any of those hours on something we are cheating everything else we could be doing.
3. So what if instead of letting others or circumstances choose for us... we purposely chose who/what we were going to cheat?
4. Mary chose to cheat her dreams or a normal life, of enjoying a typical wedding...
5. What do you need to choose to cheat?
6. Will you cheat your hobbies or your family?
7. Will you cheat your comfort or your purpose?
8. Yes be wise, you still have to go to work... but when push comes to shove what are you going to cheat?
 - a. Reality- you can find another job... you can't find another family.

V. WE

- A. An extraordinary life is not about escaping the ordinary...
- B. It's about accepting that God wants to break into your ordinary life and bring the extraordinary right alongside.
- C. Are you willing to accept it?
- D. What would that be like to know that everyday you are fulfilling a God-given purpose that only you can fulfill?
- E. That where you are right now is exactly where God wants to use you for something extraordinary.

F. God offers us an extraordinary purpose in the middle of our ordinary life.

- G. Will you choose to accept it?

QUESTIONS:

1. What are you looking forward to this holiday season? What are you not looking forward to?
2. Jon said, "We miss the ordinary because we think we are stuck in the ordinary." Do you ever feel stuck in the ordinary? Is so, in what way(s)?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. Why do you think God tends to use the seemingly ordinary to bring about the extraordinary?
4. How did you answer our two "Extraordinary Questions"?
 - a. What is it that only you can do?
 - b. What do you need to cheat in order to fulfill your purpose?
5. An extraordinary life can begin with a simple, "Yes." Is there anything you need to say yes to God about this week?