

## Reclaiming the Ordinary: Simple Rhythms for a Meaningful Life.

### Part 4: Feeling Powerless? Here's How God Can Use Your Ordinary Life

Romans 12:1–2

**Summary:** Offering our ordinary lives to God and letting Him transform our minds turns everyday moments into sacred acts of worship and becomes his quiet way of changing the world.

#### Main Ideas:

There's a large gap between what we think we should do and what we can do.

Giving God the small parts of our lives allows him to do something big in our lives.

Jesus gave his life for us so we can offer our ordinary lives to God

God wants you, not just your stuff.

We give God our ordinary by letting him transform us one thought at a time.

When God is transforming us, even our most ordinary days become sacred.

Jesus turns our ordinary moments into something extraordinary.

#### Invitation:

Begin each day by praying, "God, I give you this ordinary day. Please continue to transform my mind and my heart to look like yours."

---

#### Transcript:

**WE:** How many of you saw something this week that broke your heart?

- Maybe it was... Another senseless act of violence, another impossible political debate, a friend's divorce.

And maybe it made you ask... "What should I do?"... or even "What can I do?"

- We can feel so small/powerless... These problems are just so huge.

In those moments, sometimes, we do nothing, maybe even grow a bit cynical, and then we feel worse.

Or, we scramble to be a part of a big solution: we share posts, sign petitions, debate online, even try to change our jobs or church communities, hoping this time it'll finally count.

But after all that, most of us look around and realize our world, and maybe our hearts, haven't changed that much.

- Sometimes it seems worse than when we started.

Our only choices seem to be giving up or burning out.

There's a large gap between what we think we should do and what we can do.

So maybe we're missing a third way... What if ordinary little things are what really bring about big change?

Maybe what we do in our ordinary lives, in our work, relationships, even our struggles, is the secret to finding a higher purpose?

Throughout the biblical story, God doesn't ask us to burn out chasing big solutions...

The good news isn't that you have to find the one big thing you're supposed to do with your life.

- It's that Jesus invites you to let him reshape your ordinary moments.

And almost 2000 years ago, the Apostle Paul wrote a letter to ordinary Jesus Followers in the city of Rome.

In it, he outlined a new way of thinking and living...one that transformed not just history, but the ordinary lives of people like us.

- Paul shows us what that third way looks like.
- As we discuss what he wrote, we'll discover that giving God the small parts of our lives allows him to do something big in our lives.

This isn't just ancient advice. It's a blueprint for how our ordinary lives can become something sacred, something meaningful.

Here's what he says...

**GOD: Rom. 12:1 (NLT)** *And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.*

Give your bodies to God.

When Paul says 'bodies,' he means your whole self... everyday, ordinary you.

Why? Not out of obligation... Not b/c we have to prove we are true believers by making grand gestures, taking loud stands, or doing something big for God.

It's out of gratitude. Thankfulness. Because God already gave everything for you.

- He created you, loved you, came for you, died, and rose again so you could be truly alive.

Jesus gave his life for us so we can offer our ordinary lives to God

Paul says... Let your life be a living and holy sacrifice...

What do you think he means by a "living sacrifice?"

Living: Back then, a sacrifice meant bringing an animal to the temple... it was killed, used up, and you had to do it again next week.

But a living sacrifice never ends. It's your whole, ongoing life given to God.

- B/c God wants you, not just your stuff.

It's all-encompassing: At work. With your family. How you think, how you grieve, how you pray and hope and react when no one's watching.

What about holy?

- Set apart. Different from what's in the world. Dedicated to doing God's will on earth.

It's not giving things up to win his favor... it's giving ourselves because he already loves us and gave himself for us.

- We offer ourselves to God not to earn his love, but because he loved us first and made us for his purpose

It's every day, everywhere, in everything... not just a routine, but a way of living.

Giving God our ordinary moments is the kind of sacrifice he wants and how we truly worship.

- Offering our bodies as living and holy sacrifices is a rhythm of life where we see every moment as an opportunity to offer our lives to God.
- Not because he needs it, but because he made you for it. It's the response of a freed heart.

Ok, but honestly... it sounds overwhelming. Every moment? Every ordinary part of me?

- Sounds a lot easier to do a few big things here and there, right?

How is it even possible to give EVERY MOMENT as a gift to God?

Paul tells us that too...

**Rom. 12:2a (NLT)** *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.*

We give God our ordinary by letting him transform us one thought at a time.

Paul says... don't copy the behavior and customs of this world.

- Why? B/c they are part of the system that creates chaos and death.
- The system of Revenge. Division. Fear.
- "An eye for an eye"
- "I protect my people and fight against anything that is 'other' "

That's the cycle and system Jesus came to break when he rescued us.

- **Gal 1:4 (NLT)** *Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live.*

Paul is telling the Roman Jesus Followers... you've been rescued, so don't let the world squeeze you back into its mold and patterns.

Instead, let God transform you.

- The Greek word there is the word we get metamorphosis from. And it's this idea of ongoing metamorphosis.

- It's a lifelong rhythm... letting God continually reshape how we think about everything.

This isn't about just self-improvement or working really hard to be good people.

- It's letting God's love do deep, slow, often unseen soul work in the middle of our ordinary days.
- Changing our thinking to be more and more like God's because that's whose image we were created to reflect.

**When God is transforming us, even our most ordinary days become sacred.**

This doesn't earn God's love or salvation. It's the result of already receiving it, the life of a rescued child.

- It's a day-to-day rhythm
- Allowing him to prune us (gently removing what keeps us from growing) as we talked about last week
- There are setbacks, but with those setbacks is infinite grace and encouragement and a Heavenly Father who celebrates even small wins.

And that sounds pretty great... BUT... how does this do anything for the problems we were talking about at the beginning?

- Do we just sit around getting more and more holy while there's real pain out there?

And this is where things get so good... and where I think so many people have missed the point of what Paul just said...

**Rom 12:2b** *Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

When our thoughts are transformed by God... we don't need a rule-book to know what is right.

- The new rule book is a mind renewed by God Himself.
- Jesus' ultimate command of love becomes our life's filter.

It's the fulfilment of God's promise thousands of years ago...

- **Jeremiah 31:33 (NLT)** *"But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days," says the LORD. "I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."*

When God is transforming how you think and view the world... then you will know what you should do.

- You don't have to act on every knee-jerk reaction you have
- You don't have to allow others to pressure/guilt/shame you to do what they think you should do
- You can trust that every small act of love, mercy, peace, and patience, transformed by God, becomes part of his answer for a world dying for something more.

See, following Jesus isn't about just getting good life advice.

- It's about God giving us new hearts, one day at a time.
- Giving us a new reason for living... to bring his love into the world one sacred moment at a time.

Remember... Jesus gave His life for us so we can offer our ordinary lives to God

You don't have to change yourself alone. The Christian story is about God loving us first and shaping our lives from the inside out.

And each of us is invited to experience this life.

No matter who you are, what you've done, how much you think you do/don't know... Jesus offers to take you out of the vicious cycle that dominates our world and show you a life of love, peace, and joy.

You only need to be willing.

No pressure, but if you're ready for the first time... Tell him, "Jesus, I want to follow you. Please transform my mind, my heart, and my life to look like yours."

**YOU:** And for all of us, that can be our prayer too.

Try it this week... Begin each day by praying, "God, I give you this ordinary day. Please continue to transform my mind and my heart to look like yours."

**WE:** What if we saw our daily routines—work, relationships, even chores—as sacred offerings to God?

Imagine the effect on your family, your coworkers, our community... if a room full of ordinary people lived ordinary days as sacred worship to God.

That is how Jesus' love quietly, steadily, changes the world.

This is how our lives have purpose, meaning, and have an impact that lasts beyond us.

As you allow Jesus to transform you daily, watch powerlessness, apathy, fear, and division give way to hope, courage, and compassion.

- You'll find yourself becoming part of God's answer in the world.

He might even take your first small steps of love and turn them into something you could never have imagined

Jesus turns our ordinary moments into something extraordinary.