

SERMON TITLE: CREATIVITY: TURNING THE ORDINARY INTO THE EXTRA ORDINARY

SERMON TEXT: *“He has **made everything appropriate in its time** He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end” (Ecclesiastes 3:11).*

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters....Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light...Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ...Then God said, “Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so...Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years...” ...Then God said, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.” ...Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind”; and it was so.” ...God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them...God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food”; and it was so. God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day” (Genesis 1:1-2; 3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 27, 28-31).

SERMON THESIS: God is Creator and He has given us the ability to be creative.

INTRODUCTION: Creativity has been defined as, “The ability to look at the ordinary and see the extra ordinary.” As revealed in the first chapter of Genesis, God is the undisputed Creator, who created the earth and everything in it out of nothing and while we cannot create anything, He has given us the innate ability to be creative. We have been given the ability to take something that is ordinary and turn it into something that is extra ordinary.

Let me introduce you to a word at this point. The word is paradigm. A paradigm is the lens through which we view the world. Like the lens of a camera, and the photographer who looks into those lense, we view the world through our paradigms. Through our lens we view the world and the things therein. Our view of the world will be colored by our culture, our upbringing, educational background, race, etc. Each of us view life and things differently for these and other reasons. All of us, however, have the innate ability to turn the ordinary into the extra ordinary.

The question is, however, how can we take the ordinary things of life and turn them into something extra ordinary?

First, it is a matter of ...

I. PERSEVERANCE - The perseverance of the saints is a distinctive of the Baptist Faith, and a biblical truth. We are to persevere to the end. Perseverance for the professional photographer is a word with which they have become very familiar. Behind that one snapshot in National Geographic, many roles of film have been used and hundreds of shots made before the perfect photograph ultimately seen in the magazine emerges. An artist may spend hours and even years painting the masterpiece that finally emerges.

Like the photographer, and the artist, God has given each of us creativity to turn something that is ordinary into the extra ordinary, but most often it requires perseverance. Perseverance is the key in

turning the ordinary into the extra ordinary.

Creativity not only requires perseverance, it is also a matter of...

II. PERSPECTIVE - It was the Psalmist who said, *“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things from your law”*(Psalm 119:18). It is not until we see things from God’s perspective, like the Psalmist, that our eyes are opened to wonderful things. The moment we see things from God’s perspective, the ordinary is transformed into the extra ordinary.

According to the writer of Ecclesiastes, *“He has made everything beautiful in its time”* (Eccl. 3:11). To see this beauty, however, is to view things from God’s perspective. Creativity, you see, is a matter of perspective. You have heard someone say, *“That was a Kodak moment.”* A *“Kodak moment”* is when the ordinary is turned into something extra ordinary.

Two people standing in the same place can view a beautiful sunset. One person sees it as something ordinary. The other person sees it as something extra ordinary. One person can look at a glass of water. One will see it as half-full. The other person will see it as half-empty. It is a matter of perspective. The paradigm through which you view things makes all the difference.

While staying at Angels Landing, in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, one evening, Carolyn and I went for a walk. We had not gone very far when a flock of turkeys appeared on the scene. Suddenly an ordinary walk down an already beautiful path, turned into something extra ordinary. For us, that was a Kodak moment. Since therefore, God *“...has made everything beautiful in its time,”* we need to be ready always for that Kodak moment when the ordinary is turned into the extra ordinary.

Therefore, may we pray, as did the Psalmist, *Open my eyes that I may see beautiful things ...”* not only from the law, i.e., His Word, but we, likewise, behold beautiful things from His created order—from the beauty of the earth and the glory of the skies.

Not only is creativity a matter of perspective ...

Second, we must find ...

II. THE PLACE OF POSSIBILITY - God has given us great potential for experiencing the many possibilities of life. Therefore, we must put ourselves in the place of possibility. For example, if a National Geographic photographer wants to get a picture of lions in the wild then he must go to Africa, or some other place where lions are found. Once in position, the possibility of getting the right photograph of the lions are much more predictable. The photographer has now put himself in position to turn the ordinary into the extra ordinary.

The same is true in our service of the Master. We must find out where God is at work, in the words of Blackaby, and join Him in that work. Once in the place of possibility, we have positioned ourselves to turn the ordinary into the extra ordinary experience. This happened on the Day of Pentecost in Acts, chapter two...

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance” (Acts 2:1-4).

Finding themselves in the place of possibility, the disciples and others who were in Jerusalem, witnessed the ordinary events of the day being turned into the extra ordinary.

Will you be ready for that “God Moment” finding yourself in the place of possibility when the ordinary turns into the extra ordinary?

Not only must we be in the place of possibility to experience the extra ordinary.

Third, we must be ...

III. PATIENT - Sometimes the photographer must wait for hours, days, and even weeks to see the ordinary turn into the extra ordinary. The Bible is replete with messages on waiting. One of my favorite passages on waiting in all of the Bible is found in Isaiah...

“Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary” (Isaiah 40:31).

We must wait with patience and be ready to experience the ordinary becoming the extra ordinary experience.

Finally, let’s consider the following lessons, some in review, drawn from the message on, *Creativity: Turning The Ordinary Into The Extra Ordinary*:

1. Every act can be a creative one if you are willing to persevere, and wait patiently.
2. You must realize that creativity is a matter of perspective. We must train ourselves to view all of life from God’s perspective, and be ready at all times for that Kodak, or God Moment.
3. Break the old patterns that you are accustomed to. Patterns can enslave and rob you of your creativity.
4. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes. If you make a mistake, so what? Try again!
5. Don’t be afraid of failure? Someone has written, “It is better to try and fail, than to have never tried at all.”
6. You’ve got to really care.

CONCLUSION: Following Jesus fully will start your creative juices flowing. The extra ordinary event of life will become the order of the day. You will begin to experience life on a different level and discover, in the words of the preacher, “*He (God) has made everything beautiful in His time*”(Eccl. 3:11). You don’t want to miss what He has in store for you now, not to mention the hear after. Does not the Bible say ...

“But just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM” (I Cor. 2:9).

Jesus can take the ordinary and turn it into the extra ordinary!! Are you ready for your “God Moment?”

God can take an ordinary life and turn it into a life that is extraordinary...

It was said about the prophet Daniel, “... *a spirit of the gods is in you, and that illumination, insight, and extraordinary wisdom have been found in you*” (Daniel 5:14)

“For the LORD will rise up as at Mount Perazim, He will be stirred up as in the valley of Gibeon, to do His task, His unusual task, and to work His work, His extraordinary work” (Isaiah 28:21).

Paul in Ephesus...

“And God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul...” (Acts 19:11).