

**5.17.09**  
**ordinary you...EXTRAORDINARY GOD**  
**main service**  
**Pastor Jack Schull**

Good Morning...turn with me to Luke 1: 37

Intro: as you're turning there – let me introduce myself

“Hello, my name is Jack, and I’m ordinary”... (place ordinary sign on tripod) (you are too)

Now – as I say that there is this tension that rises up within me... ”no I’m not – I’m more”. The thought of being merely ordinary seems less than what I’m capable of, something of a loss to settle for only ordinary. I guess it all depends on what the scale is, who you’re comparing too...what’s the metrics in this assessment?...

- Now there is a part of me that is okay with being ordinary – after all, I’m reminded ever Friday night on the soccer field as I’m gasping for air and kicking with 2 left feet...
- But there is a part of me that has this tension -- surely I’m more...?

Today, we’re going to explore a tension...gaze into how we’re to have a balance, biblical perspective on worship... as we make our way toward observing communion together...

I want us to leave here encouraged and reminded of who we are...who God really is...because I think there are a lot of us who in the stress of life right now, the busyness of the pace and the demands of the situations you’re facing...the anxiety of the unknown → a good healthy refresher is what’s needed...

**Luke 1:37** (place extraordinary sign as I read the verse on tripod – other side of stage)  
 (this verse that the angel declares (background) – Jesus picks up on this notion later (*Luke 18:27*)  
 (repeat v. 37 - as a question?)

-in the beginning God created...he is the alpha/omega – always been, always will be...same yesterday, today, tomorrow  
 -Jesus walked on water, healed the blind, deaf, sick, fed over 5000 with a lunchable – oh, and he raised Lazarus back from the dead...

**God is Extraordinary!**

*Continuum: Ordinary -----Extraordinary*

We have a tendency in our busyness, haste - to begin to shrink God away from being truly extraordinary – maybe we forget // and we spend enormous amounts of energy and effort trying to move ourselves closer to being extraordinary... to puff up, prop up ourselves to be more...

**“Hello, my name is Jack – and I’m ordinary!”**

We need to be reminded – remember who God is!!! Who we are – and maybe more importantly: who we’re NOT.

→ there is beauty in the middle of the paradoxes!

Within the Scriptures – there exists these great paradoxes of truth...that help shape our understanding of who we are (shapes our understanding of worship):

- James 4:14 – I’m a mist (appears for a little while and then vanishes) (return to dust Psalm 90) (I’m limited, finite) ***--and on the other hand--***

- *Genesis 1* - I'm created in the image of God, *Psalms 139* I'm fearfully and wonderfully made by my Creator...I'm equipped and gifted by my Creator...

These paradoxes exist – reminding us of who God is...

- Jesus said to his followers in Jn 17 "I no longer call you servants, I call you friends)...Apostle Paul reminds us that we are lavished in God's love, we are his children
- Hebrews 4 says that we can come before God's throne boldly and with confidence  
*-and yet – on the other hand*
- Proverbs says that the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord – (fear = respect)
- **Ecclesiastes 5:1-2** → Solomon writes some words that should humble us...

→ where you place yourself and where you place God matters...this paradox is about having a healthy balanced, biblical perspective on worship...

***The bible has much to teach us about worship...today I want to look at a story from the Old Testament (2 Samuel 6)...that I think will give us fresh understanding of Who God is, who we are – how worship is set within this understanding...***

T we serve an extraordinary God – and King David knew that (do you?)
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-David was an ordinary shepherd boy – that God chose to be king...

-ordinary teenage boy – that God used to slay a giant

David was ordinary – but God was doing extraordinary things with him, through him...

### **2 Sam 6:1-2**

*Ark of God (God's presence) // Ark of the Covenant (God's faithfulness)*

now David has set out to bring this ark – symbol of the presence of God to the new united capital of all Israel – he's made Jerusalem (*from Hebron*) the political capital (reunited all 12 tribes of Israel, 1000b.c.) and now wants to make it the religious capital...

ARK= *like a footstool size...*(scripture is very clear about how it was made, how it was to be cared for, transported on the shoulders of the Levites (priests)) (*Exodus 25 / Numbers 4*) wasn't to be touched or looked in...very HOLY...

It was the purist and holiest symbol of Israel – represented the very presence of God...

3 things inside:

- 'manna' – symbol of God's provision
- Aaron's budding staff (with almonds) – symbol of God's miraculous power
- 10 Commandments – symbol of God's law

2 Samuel 6 → David has gone with 30,000 men, a giant parade is unfolding...

T you have to understand a quick snapshot of the last 100 years backdrop of what transpired around this ark -- what it is...where it's been...how in the midst of the turmoil it's gone silent...

T to help you with the back story – let me ask you:

Q think about one of the most treasured things you own, you have – what you value?  
--an object...how would you feel if it was taken?... (pause)?

Q how many of you ever been robbed ? – had something stolen ? (*raise hands*)

St or when I was a kid (coming home and saw all our lights on...shadow running through house out the back... (remember: the adrenaline, the anger, the disappointment, the worry)...

Well the Israelites had this possession that was so valued – so treasured, they had it stolen from them...this was more than merely a valuable trinket – this was something so much more...

### **1 Samuel 4-7:1 – (read later) DESCRIBE THE backdrop of the story/history!**

- Lost battle – philistines stole it - the nation of Israel is distraught...defeated / Eli's death
- Ark is in temple of Dagon – philistines find Dagon bowing first morning (fallen over), bowing 2<sup>nd</sup> morning with hands/head broken off – move it to another town, tumors break out...(7 months/3 towns = disasters) - finally they send it on an cart pulled by two cattle – and it heads straight back to Israel's land...

Let me ask you:

Q have you ever lost something and had it return itself to you?

Story: josh's passport in china – taxi driver gets' call...drives backwards for 1 mile on highway...to arrive back at airport and receive this passport from security guard...didn't even know it was gone...the excitement on Josh's face and our relief

Now – here is the ark of the Lord – returning itself to the nation of Israel...elation of the people to see the symbol of God's presence back among them...

T so now, David is setting out to return the Ark to the center of Jewish religious life in Jerusalem...and something happens in this

### **2 Sam 6:3, 5**

### **2 Sam 6:6-10a**

- Seems harsh – but must be seen in light of God's absolute holiness...
- In the busyness of the parade – David's agenda clouded God's standards (he had established what was to be done with the ark – specific instruction...we can't take God too lightly)
- **Worship is centered in an awareness of WHO God is...He's extraordinary!!! We're ordinary...**

<i>God is Holy</i> -has standards	<u>worship (mindset) is in middle</u>	<i>God loves us</i> -totally forgiving/friend
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David may have been reminded in that moment – that God is greater than anything He knows – can't not be treated too lightly...God had anointed him, but can never be controlled by him...

God is so much BIGGER,...he can not be manipulated, controlled...we can not allow ourselves to try to shrink him – he doesn't fit in a box...

→ Psalmist reminds us: **Psalm 33:6**

He is truly the only Extraordinary One...

T now David eventually does bring the ark to Jerusalem...he transports it the proper way next time...he heeds the proper balance of fear of the Lord and friend of the Lord...

(God's Extraordinary – and yet we are embraced by his extraordinary love)

Worship is living life captivated by wonder of this extraordinary God...

God is so big – and yet he is so intimate...I can come before him boldly, yet I am to be in awe...

God you are Holy – beyond me...yet you are able to be known and you call me friend...

→ it's the paradox of balanced, biblical worship...

Quote:

Mike Yaconelli (a pastor) / author of *Dangerous Wonder*. said this, "the most critical issue facing Christians is not abortion, pornography, drugs, racism, sexuality or the disintegration of the family. The most critical issue today is dullness. We have lost our astonishment.

We have lost our ability to be captivated by wonder...

### **Kids understand wonder:**

Illust: I can take Calista anywhere – and there are so many things that she marvels at, you can see the wonder flood over her face...the gasps, the delight...the amazement of a water fountain – to the stars in the sky

- As adults we seek to explain away wonder – to marvel at something, well 'that's childish we say'...and yet Jesus continually called his followers to a child-like faith...(do you ever wonder why?)

*(Go back to acknowledging - center stage – in between ordinary and extraordinary)*

T We are to live in this beautiful tension – that God is so Holy & Majestic and yet He is so loving & merciful...He is accessible, able to be known and available and yet he is still mysterious and beyond and so much more than what I can get my mind around

Maybe the simplest question for you today is: does God keep getting Bigger to you?

**...maybe worship is best experienced with an attitude of wonder...**

T we want to give you some time to reflect today on who God is...all that He is. All that He has done and can do...to worship your Creator – and then we're going to take communion together...(after the video, some scriptures for reflection, then a song – ushers you go and get the plates)

*I want to give us a chance to remember and reflect on who he is, who we are, - who we are NOT...*

Setup for Video:

**"My name is Jack – and I'm ordinary"**

... what makes that OK, is the reality: I'm deeply valued and loved by God, embraced by an extraordinary love

### **Ephesians 3: 17b-19**

I love what the Apostle Paul says...

...I'm ordinary, but I was sought out by the only true Extraordinary God first...he created me to know Him...He actually seeks to use me (the ordinary) – empowered by him – to do extraordinary things – because that is how he likes to operate – it blesses Him and pleases Him.

**Maybe worship is best experienced when I allow myself to live in awe of Him,**

## Fueled by wonder again and again and again...

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**Video** (awesomeness of God: [www.sermonspice.com](http://www.sermonspice.com) )

**Scripture Meditation** on screen:

Isa 44: 6-7

Isa 40: 12-15, 18, 21-22, 25-26, 28

**Song: AMAZED** (congregation)

T “hello, I’m jack and I’m ordinary...but I’m known, accepted, & embraced by the extraordinary!”

T so we come this morning to communion...were reminded by the words of Paul in Colossians 1 – that God is extraordinary – he’s huge

*He says of Jesus: just listen to these words...*

**Col. 1: 15-20a**

Jesus is truly the Extraordinary One

Today we come to be re-anchored to his extraordinary love for you, for me

**Colossians 1:21-22**

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Walk thru the Lord’s Supper – as they hold the elements to:

*-bring their concerns to God*

*-to confess the ways they’ve wandered – ask for more wonder – to see him for He truly is*

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**Extra stuff: (probably no time for)**

Worship is focusing ourselves on God

→ we tend to like the focus to be on ‘me’

Worship is remembering who God is and what He can do – what He’s done!

**Psalm 19:1-2**

Worship is enjoying Him (like the kid that got of the roller coaster) that was totally awesome! It was one of the kids I took who said (that was the best 45 seconds of my entire life)...enjoying the coaster!

- Worship is opening yourself to the bigness of God & getting lost in His presence
- It’s being peacefully overwhelmed on 1 hand by His power, holiness and on the other hand: his love and tenderness
- Worship is obedience
- Worship is prayer
- Worship is a supernatural & intimate exchange of love
- It is a life lived relaxing in God’ shadow
- Worship is a verb – it’s played out the actions and reactions in everyday life...
- It **requires participation** from people created to respond – but conditioned to be spectators!
- And oh by the way.....worship sometimes includes singing!

Worship is simple and complex

It’s easily understood – but searchable for a lifetime!

Yes - it’s about singing – but it’s so much more, ...it’s about how you live...

**Romans 12:1-2**

every moment is a moment to be engaged in worship of your Creator - b/c: