

Reflections with Sharon

Ordinary days

Read Philippians 4:10-19

One of the things about life is that it is so full of regular, ordinary days. Most of our days comprise the most basic tasks – common everyday activities like getting our kids off to school, driving or taking the bus to work, dealing with clients, sitting in traffic, meeting commitments, caring for the needs of our family, attending meetings, talking on the phone, doing chores, paying bills, shopping or whatever. Whether it's standing in line or buying gas, for the most part, we do the same basic things every day. There's just no escaping how daily life is – so mundane, so routine, so ordinary!

But I am growing to truly appreciate the “ordinariness” of life and am learning to give thanks for those days when nothing out-of-the-ordinary happens.

Today there may not have been a welcome check in the mail, but neither was there an unexpected bill; no one called to brighten my day, but I had no upsetting phone calls either; traffic was heavy and tiring as usual, but I was not involved in any accidents; nobody said anything complimentary to me, but neither was I pissed off at someone's rude behavior or insensitive comments; I received no gifts and got no discounts, but neither was I mugged or cheated in any way. No one injured or threatened me; I experienced no man-made or natural disasters; and although I can't claim to have gotten particularly great news that absolutely made my day, neither can I say I heard any dreaded news of a loved one's illnesses or hospitalization or death.

Until we realize that all it takes to turn our normal day into a hellish nightmare is one tiny miscalculated step, we will never truly understand what a privilege it is to go through even one ordinary day!

There's a certain restlessness deep within us that makes us wary of the ordinary. We crave excitement; we yearn for adventure. We want to rise up and do the extraordinary. We want to spread our wings and soar and fly and touch the sky. We want to be great. We want to be recognized. We want to shine. We want our moment of fame, a chance in the spotlight. We want to break out of our shell, come out of the shadows and do something sensational.

But if we're lucky enough, we grow up in time to realize that it's in the shadows that most of life is lived – hanging in there and being faithful to the task at hand day in and day out, whether or not we're ever recognized or given credit; for what truly defines us is not doing some heroic, spectacular thing in the limelight, but doing life's very ordinary duties in an extraordinary way.