

# EXTRAORDINARY ORDINARINESS



The powerful message  
of Nazareth

The Bible tells us of Jesus' birth, His escape to Egypt and His family's return to Nazareth. Then silence – until He turns twelve and goes up to Jerusalem. Found in the temple, He reveals His true identity in one simple sentence: 'Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?' (Luke 2:49). He was the Son of God!

And that was it. Back to Nazareth, back to His parents and another 18 years of obedient submission. Nothing spectacular to our way of thinking. The only remarkable thing about this submissiveness is that it is likely to be near the bottom of the list of traits we aim for. It is creativity, self-realization and top performance that we associate with a sense of fulfilment and purpose. So what's the message for us here?

Nazareth's message is powerful but unexpected: Extraordinary ordinariness! So often we rush frantically from one event to the next. Feverish activity from morning till night: anything to escape the monotony of the daily grind. Nazareth offers just the opposite. The Son of the living God, Creator of all things, Likeness of the unseen Godhead, the King of all kings who will return one day in power and glory, chose a hidden life until He reached the age of thirty. No signs, no miracles, no healings – nothing out of the ordinary.

A simple carpenter's son from a small town with a poor reputation, growing up under less than

ideal circumstances and carrying out menial tasks day in, day out. Nothing out of the ordinary. And yet something very special. For humdrum, eventless days with endlessly-repeated tasks, Jesus offers a new perspective.

Great things, truly great things happen in Nazareth. The authority of God's Son grew in obscurity. Faithful in small things, in the insignificant, out-of-the-limelight daily round; unnoticed, unrecognized, misunderstood, he attained true greatness. In a world addicted to thrills, kicks and achievement, this is outrageous!

The laws of the Kingdom of Heaven turn our standards upside down. True greatness lies in lowliness, tremendous power in hiddenness. In complete dependence on the Father, Jesus waited for 'His hour'. Then, and only then, did He perform His first public miracle at the wedding in Cana (John 2).

JESUS OF NAZARETH was the inscription nailed to the Cross. Nazareth cannot be overlooked. Nazareth must not be forgotten. It is an integral part of the sacrifice the Son of God made to redeem us.

How I love and thank Jesus – my Jesus of Nazareth. He seeks followers, for He said, ‘where I am, my servant also will be’ (John 12:26). He has precious gifts in store for us – treasures hidden beneath the dark fields of Nazareth.

Sister Joela Krüger

GOD'S GREATEST PLANS  
START OFF SMALL,  
INSIGNIFICANT AND  
MISUNDERSTOOD.

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