An Ordinary Moment

"The man bowed his head and worshiped the LORD."
Genesis 24:26, ESV

The car pulls into the driveway. The journey is over. We turn off the engine, gather our belongings, and prepare to go inside. Then, almost without preparation, a few words come: "Thank you, Father, for bringing us home."

An ordinary moment has become an occasion of worship.

Nothing around us announces it. There is no music, no gathered congregation, and no one leading a prayer. Perhaps no one else even hears. Yet we have recognized God's care and turned toward Him in gratitude.

Something similar happened beside a well long ago.

Abraham's servant had traveled far to find a wife for Isaac. Arriving at his destination, he prayed for God's guidance. Before he finished speaking, Rebekah appeared. She offered him water and drew water for his camels. When he learned whose daughter she was, he recognized the Lord's direction.

He bowed his head and worshiped.

The journey had brought him to the well. God's kindness brought him to thanksgiving. In the midst of carrying out his responsibility, he stopped to acknowledge the One who had guided him.

This is the distinction explored in Worship as It Occurs: worship is a conscious response directed toward God, offered in truth and humility, arising from recognizing who He is or what He has done.

The distinction helps us notice something we might otherwise overlook.

We may admire a sunset and continue walking. But when we turn toward its Maker and acknowledge His wisdom and beauty, our admiration becomes an occasion for praise.

We may hear that a friend is suffering and feel concern. When that concern becomes a humble appeal to God for mercy, we have turned toward Him in dependence.

We may remember a sin and feel regret. When we bring that sin before our Father, asking forgiveness through Christ without making excuses, we respond to His holiness and mercy.

These moments can be brief. Their brevity does not make them insignificant.

Nor must they be accompanied by strong emotion. A quiet acknowledgment may be entirely sincere. God knows whether our words express gratitude or merely pass across our lips. He receives the humble response that others may never notice.

This gives us reason to be attentive during our ordinary days.

It does not require us to call every activity worship. Driving home, preparing a meal, and discussing Scripture each have their place. Within those activities, however, we may consciously turn toward God. The work continues, but a moment of thanksgiving, dependence, or praise has occurred.

Such moments also deepen our appreciation for the gathered church. The Scripture we hear, the prayers we share, and the truth we sing prepare us to recognize God's faithfulness throughout the week. Our quiet responses grow from the truth we have received together.

Perhaps today an ordinary event will give us reason to pause.

A kindness received. A need brought to our attention. A remembered promise that steadies us.

We can turn toward our Father then. We need not wait until Sunday to thank Him.

An ordinary moment becomes an occasion of worship when we recognize God and respond to Him in truth and humility.

Father, make us attentive to your goodness in the ordinary course of life. Teach us to respond with sincere gratitude, humble dependence, and praise. Let the truth we receive in your Word shape our hearts, so that we recognize your kindness and turn toward you. Amen.

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