Well, it is good to be with you, and I am excited to dig back into the gospel of John. But let me make my way there by way of a story. Heather and I will be married thirteen years in December. And our marriage took place pre-caller ID days. So one day the phone rang and I picked it up and it was a girl from the past. So while I was on the phone, and I hadn’t been talking to her but about two or three minutes, and she says to me, hey, do you remember that time in the past with us? She was trying to remind me of a promiscuous moment. And I said, you know what? I do. Now the softball was thrown, and here you are, the wife is not around, here is your temptation, so how are you going to handle it? Well, by God’s grace I said you know what? I do remember that, and this is something that I need to tell you. I am no longer that person. Those were BC days, before Christ, and Jesus has changed my life.

And I said what you need is a man in your life who loves Jesus Christ. I said Christ has absolutely changed my life and I am no longer that person. And she said you know I heard that you were in the ministry, and that you were a preacher, but I actually thought that you were a con man. I said no, that is not the case at all. I have really been changed, and so that partier that you used to know, that promiscuous guy, that is no longer me. And when she called me that day, she thought she was calling and talking to ordinary Bobby. But do you see when Jesus comes along into our lives; He takes ordinary people and makes extraordinary changes in our lives.

And that is what Jesus Christ wants to do in all of our lives. Maybe your life feels bland this morning. Or maybe it feels vanilla. Or you feel like you don’t have any purpose, you just feel very normal. Well, Jesus takes normal people and uses their lives in super normal ways. He takes ordinary people and uses them in extraordinary ways.

In fact, look what the verse says in 1 Corinthians Chapter 1 and verse 26, “For consider your calling, brothers, not many of you are wise according to worldly standards. Not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise. God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong. God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”

You see God doesn’t want us to boast in His presence about our own greatness, about our own superiority. God wants us to bring our nothingness and to recognize that without Him we would be hopeless. He wants us to come to Him ordinary, as we are, and then He will make our lives extraordinary. He wants us to come to Him normal, as we are, and then He will make our lives super normal. And so if you are sitting out here today and you are going, man, I just want my life to count, I want my life to matter. I don’t want my life to fill vanilla, bland and boring. I want some excitement in my life. I want meaning in my life. Then let’s check out the gospel of John and see what Jesus can
do about that for us. Jesus is going to do some really cool stuff. He is in the midst of getting ready to go build His team.

Now keep in mind this is a series that we are doing called, ‘More Than a Man,’ from the gospel of John. And we will finish Chapter 1 today. Some of you are going it’s about time; it has taken four messages to get through one chapter. But understand what John has done so far is he has said that Jesus is more than a man. He is God in the flesh. And we learned about that and then John turned our attention to John the Baptist. And we learned how John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus to come in His earthly ministry. And now what’s going to happen is Jesus is going to start calling His first disciples.

Now understand something that can be very important for you to grasp. The section of Scripture that we are going to study today in John is interesting because when we look at the way Jesus chooses His team, it is totally contrary to the way we would. When you build your team, ladies and gentlemen, in the work place, what do you look for? Extraordinary talent. Jesus doesn’t do that. He looks for ordinary people. Jesus looks for people and He has vision and belief that He can work in people’s lives in great ways. Jesus loves building a team with people that nobody would think could amount to anything. Those are the people Jesus goes after. But when we build our teams we look for super normal people, extraordinary people. We look for the gifts, for the talents, those who are steady in their leadership. But Jesus cruises along and He just goes after every day ordinary people.

Now in verses 35 to 51 that we are going to be covering today, you don’t find these verses in the synoptic gospels. By synoptic gospels, what gospels am I talking about? Matthew, Mark and Luke. There are four gospels and the New Testament starts with the gospel of Matthew, then Mark and then Luke. Those three are the synoptic gospels. But then you come to John and it sort of stands alone. Matthew, Mark and Luke are called synoptic gospels because they are similar in content. No, they are not the exact same, they are similar in content. John, the book that we are studying, has a lot of content that does not associate with the synoptic gospels.

So these verses right here, you have to put the puzzle together and go where do they fit in light of the synoptic gospels. And so I believe that these verses would stand in between Jesus’ baptism and the temptation. When you read the synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, it goes from Jesus being baptised, then He goes into the wilderness to be tempted. But this passage right here is what I believe takes place between those two periods of time. What Jesus is going to do here is He is going to call His disciples to salvation. So I believe what is taking place in these verses is conversion. They are getting saved. So then if you read this in light of the synoptic gospels, what you really have is Jesus baptism, these verses where this is conversion of the disciples, then
Jesus goes into the wilderness, then Jesus goes and calls His disciples. Like in Matthew Chapter 4 and verse 19 where He walks up to Andrew and Peter and says, “Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” He was calling them at that point to the ministry but at this point He is calling them to conversion.

So I hope that will help you when you are reading your Bible to understand I believe in how things are being put together. That verse when Jesus called them to be fishers of men, He calls them to the ministry. Did you know that is the same exact verse that God used in my life to call me to the ministry? It was years ago, I was probably twenty-one or twenty-two, so fourteen or fifteen years ago. And there I was working at the Ritz Carlton as a valet parker. I was parking a car late, probably about 2:00 in the morning and as I was backing the car into a parking spot I noticed a car in front of me with the license plate that said ‘MATT419.’ And for some reason that license plate was like a piercing light, man, it was just beaming out. I was looking at that and wondering why was I so drawn to that. And then I just sensed the Holy Spirit saying go and get your Bible and look up Matthew 4:19. So I would read my Bible through the night on the graveyard shift and I would memorize Scripture. You ever have one of those moments when you feel like God has a divine surprise for you? My nickname at this job was ‘the Reverend.’ My life had been changed, I was witnessing to everybody and they were calling me ‘the Reverend,’ and so I was wondering if I was supposed to go into ministry. So I ran and I opened up my Bible and the MATT419 said, “Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” And God called me into the ministry and I still look back to that night as the moment when God called me to someday be your pastor. So isn’t that great. I was called into the ministry through the license plate of a car.

So this is where we are. And what Jesus would do with His disciples, He kind of had these different phases of calling. He would call them and they would be converted, but then He would go from their conversion to call them to the ministry. And they would come into the ministry and prepare with Him for three years. Then He called them to be apostles and then to martyrdom. So conversion, to the ministry, to apostles to martyrdom.

So let’s look at this idea of how He goes after ordinary fishermen and begins to call them to an extraordinary vision for their lives. In Chapter 1 and verse 35 we start our text and it says, “The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples.” Now John is the author here and he does not disclose the name of both of the disciples. He only discloses the name of one of the disciples. In verse 40 we see that one of the two referred to here is Andrew. However scholars believe that the other disciple is John, the one that is writing this book. John referred to himself at one time as ‘the disciple whom Jesus loved.’ He was sort of this follower of Jesus that would write about himself in an
anonymous way. And so we believe then that it is Andrew and John, the author of this gospel, that are hanging out with John the Baptist.

So now look at verse 35 with that in mind. “The next day again John (the Baptist) was standing with John (the author of this gospel) and Andrew.” “And he looked at Jesus as He walked by.” I just got excited reading that phrase, “And he looked at Jesus as He walked by,” and I sort of went there, you know, in that moment, and I just pictured Him out there standing by the Jordon River. It was probably kind of a nice day out there, the sun was beaming, they just had some fish and chips, and all of a sudden they finished this meal up and he looked at Jesus as He walked by. And what is happening in this moment as he is looking at Jesus? He is being stirred in his affections. He is being moved and John the Baptist says this, “Behold, the Lamb of God.” John had said it the day before when he pointed Him out, but he says it again, “Behold, the Lamb of God.” John is just hanging out with Andrew and he sees Jesus, “Behold, the Lamb of God.” You see that person walking right there? Someday, in the near future, He is going to forgive you for all of your sins. Do you see Him walking? That is prophesy being fulfilled in your very presence. He is a walking fulfillment of prophecy right there in their presence. And so they were just sort of hanging out in this moment, so what would it have felt like to realize that this is the one they have been waiting for? This is the Messiah that has been prophesied for hundreds of years, and here the Messiah has shown up. And now we are looking at Him. You are no longer reading in Isaiah and Zechariah about Him coming; now you have a Kodak moment. Jesus in the flesh is before you.

That is some exciting stuff. Verse 37, “The two disciples heard him say this and they followed Jesus.” So here is Andrew and here is John and they are with John the Baptist and John the Baptist says, “Behold, the Lamb of God,” and what does he do after he says that? Andrew and John, the baton is passed, and they start following Jesus. What was John the Baptist’s role? His role was to prepare the way for the one who is the way. And he did his work of preparing and now he has passed the baton and he tells them, go.

One of the things that make our life extraordinary in God’s sight is when we have humility. And John the Baptist is a person of great humility. He could have very easily taken advantage of those disciples and kept them looking to him. But a good leader always points people to Jesus, and he knew how to do that. He knew how to say, “Behold, the Lamb.” He knew how to give glory and credit to where glory and credit were due. And that is what is taking place in the verse that we just read. It says “They followed Jesus.” They not only beheld Him, but they followed Him.

So where are you are this morning? Maybe you have been beholding Jesus, learning about Him. But have you taken the next step of following Him? We have to go from just beholding Jesus, to becoming followers of Jesus. What is a follower of Jesus? A follower is someone who walks behind. They walk behind Jesus. They walk in His
way. They emulate His moves. They seek to become more like Jesus. Do you feel like that would be a description of your life? Someone who walks behind Jesus. Someone seeking to walk in the ways of Jesus. If you are going to live an extraordinary life, you need to learn how to follow Jesus, how to get behind Him.

Verse 38, “Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, What are you seeking?” Jesus always wants to know the motives for why we are following Him. There were those that were going to come eventually and all they wanted was a piece of fish. But Jesus wanted to know that they wanted a piece of His heart. And I would ask you, do you follow Jesus for the benefits of His hands, or do you follow Him for the cravings of knowing His heart? Jesus wants us to pursue Him at all costs, but He wants us to pursue Him at all costs so that we can know Him, so that we can love Him, so that He can be enough. And so often people follow Him for His benefits. And so He said, “What are you seeking?”

How do you know if you follow Jesus for His benefits? Well, when He strips away things that matter to you the most, does your life fall apart? Do you begin to blame God? Do you begin to grumble? Or do you realize that you know what? He gives and He takes it away, blessed will be His name. If you realize that when He makes life a little bit difficult, not because He is trying to make life difficult, but because He is trying to increase your faith, and you can bless Him for that, that is a sign that you are seeking Him for the right reasons.

“And they said to Him, Rabbi.” Rabbi means teacher and it was a term that was used for those who would teach Jewish law. And its literal meaning is ‘my great one.’ And so what they were saying is Rabbi, my great one. How would that go over? If you are a guest with us today, you shake my hand after church, and say, hey, Bobby, nice to meet you. No, call me your great one. I’ll go by that. It wouldn’t go over the best would it? But for Jesus, and even for the Rabbis, they had such respect for the teachers who taught them Biblical truth, that they would call them their great one. And so Jesus was literally the great one, the teacher.

“And they said, Where are you staying?” What a great statement. Where are you staying? It is not enough for us to behold you; we want to belong to you. We want to go where you go. We want to follow you. We want to pursue at all costs, a passionate, God-centered life. We want to go with you. And so that is the kind of question that raises one of the points I would like to draw out. If we are going to live lives that are more than ordinary, but that are extraordinary, we have to become people who pursue Jesus. When we wake up and we choose to live our day without prayer, when we wake up and we choose to live our day without Bible intake, what we are saying is I want to live an ordinary day. But when we get in God’s word, when we chase His heart, when we spend time in His presence, what we are saying is that we want Him to
take this ordinary day and we want Him to turn it into an extraordinary day. And so that’s what we want you to have. We want you to want to live extraordinary for God. But you can’t do that without getting in His presence.

They wanted to know where Jesus was staying. They wanted to be with Him. They wanted to never part from Him. And so how does Jesus respond? Verse 39, “He said to them, Come and you will see.” I have to tell you that I think Jesus has the coolest one liners in the world. I mean He is just cool with His one liners. Someone can just come to Him and have an issue and He will just say, “Have faith in God.” Here He says, “Come and you will see.” Well, what is Jesus doing? Jesus loves suspense. Do you like suspense? Jesus likes suspense. Here He is saying “Come and you will see,” He is not going to tell them what His address is. He is not saying it is 1501 Jordan Avenue, you know. He was not going to give the details. You just come and see.

Which allows me in my studies and meditations to realize aha, another point for living extraordinary. If we want to go from ordinary to extraordinary, we have to be willing to follow Jesus by faith. We have to be able to walk with Him in suspense. Christians, we are horrible at this in our country. The business culture has taught you to make sense of everything. But Jesus makes nonsense of stuff and says follow that. Jesus wants you to follow Him when things don’t make sense. He wants you to follow Him when things seem ludicrous. Remember Joshua, walk around the walls seven times and then blow your trumpets, and the walls will fall. What do you mean? He was told to do this seven days in a row, and on the seventh day to do it seven times. Are you crazy? Why does Jesus do that? Well, He likes suspense. He likes to make sure that we are willing to follow Him. And when Jesus calls you, if there is no suspense in your Christianity, you may not be walking by faith. You may have removed all of the mystery and made nice sense of your life. A good sign that God is doing something stretching in your life, a good sign that God is moving you from ordinary to extraordinary is when He says follow this and it seems very, very much of a risk.

Now, I am not saying follow Him in an immoral way, but if it morally lines up and you feel a tug of the Holy Spirit and circumstances are lining up, He may be asking you to do something like go be a missionary in another country. He may be asking you to sell a house that you are living in and go give a bunch of money away to the poor. He may be asking you to do something that you could never possibly imagine doing.

Let’s keep checking this passage out, in verse 39, it says, “Come and you will see. So they came and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.” Now the way the calendar worked at that time – I want to teach you when you are reading your Bible, because we are an equipping church and I want to help you to understand how to unlock your Scriptures, how do you deal with the hour system when you read your Bible? They would do time from sunrise to sunset. So
from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. And so the tenth hour, you would count ten hours forward from 6:00 a.m. which would make it 4:00 p.m. And they would also group in cycles of three, so you will also hear a lot about in the third hour which would be 9:00 a.m. In the sixth hour which would be 12:00 noon. And the ninth hour which would be 3:00 p.m. and the twelfth hour which would be 6:00 p.m. Okay?

So when you are reading, understand that they did not have watches back then. Peter wasn’t rolling with a Rolex. Paul didn’t have a Fossil. John didn’t sport a quartz watch. They didn’t have those. And so they had to have a way of telling time, and that is how they did it. And so this is about the time when the sun is going to go down, it is 4:00 and Jesus invites them over. And I just wish we could hear what they talked about. These are the things we will have to wait to find out in Heaven. But you want to go what was that dinner like that night as they ate fish and chips? What did they talk about? What were they doing as they beheld Jesus? What was the conversation around? I mean, can’t you just imagine them all hanging out together. And we are left without the story. We will have to wait until Heaven, but we do get to see that they were hanging and chilling together.

Verse 40, “One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, We have found the Messiah.” Can’t you see him running through the streets like mad going I can’t believe it, we have found the Messiah. What is my brother going to do? And here is Andrew, he is ripping through the streets, he knows where to go to find his brother. And he says, “Simon, Simon, you are not going to believe it. The Messiah is here.” Now this is major in a Jewish culture that has been looking for their Messiah, the Rabbi to come. This was so utterly and completely profound to hear that news. I mean Simon must have been thinking that Andrew was nuts, can this be true, is it really happening?

“We have found the Messiah,” which means Christ or anointed one. And then it says in verse 42, “And he brought him to Jesus.” This is another sign of someone who is living beyond the ordinary and living extraordinary. When people live extraordinary for Jesus, they bring people to Jesus. And that is what happens when Jesus gets on the inside of you, you want to get Him on the outside of you so that others can get Him on their inside too. And that is what Andrew was doing. He realized that he needed to share with his brother. And that is what God does. When you get saved, He puts an immediate burden on your heart for your family, and your loved ones. If you have been saved you will know that. I know for me when I became a Christian I became deeply burdened about seeing my family come to know Jesus Christ. So much so I drove them crazy. They thought I had lost my mind for a season, right? But that is what happens. You want your family saved; you want everyone to know what you know.
And so it says this in verse 42, “He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, So you are Simon, the son of Jona.” Now, understand this in the Bible they didn’t have last names, so Jesus wouldn’t have said, so you are Simon Conway. He wouldn’t say that. Why? Because the way people were known is by what city they were from, like Jesus of Nazareth, or by whose son you were. Simon, son of Jona. So Jesus correctly calls him Simon, the son of Jona, “but you shall be called Cephas, which means Peter.”

Now this gets good in here. This is the stuff where we have to un-dig the languages a little bit, so put your thinking cap on here. In Aramaic, Cephas means rock, but the Greek equivalent to Cephas is Peter, which means rock. Simon means listener. So Jesus says you were a listener, but you are not going to be that anymore, and I’ll explain that in a moment. You are going to be a rock. And so here we see this happening and Jesus gives Simon a nickname. Guys are like that with guys. But Jesus gives him a nickname telling him his future. He knows who Simon currently is but He also knows what He is going to make of him.

And when you come to Jesus, count on it. He knows you as ordinary but He knows how He is going to make you extraordinary. He knows what He is going to make of you. The Bible says in Ephesians Chapter 2 and verse 10 that “We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained.” He had deeds that He planned for us before time began. So He knows what He wants to do with you. The question is has you figured out what He has in store for you?

And so here Jesus nicknames Simon. And guys like to do that. Girls, if you are named Susie, you are called Susie. Guys, if your name is Bobby, you call him fathead. We just do that. And we feel close to each other when we do that, don’t we? We like those nicknames when we can kind of just be rough with each other.

So here is what is happening. I want to use Ray Stedman’s quote from a message he did and let me read what is taking place with the names. “What Jesus is saying to him is this. So you are Simon. You are now a listener; you are tuned to what everyone around you is saying. You are easily affected by the opinions and attitudes of others. Remember the story near the end of the gospels when as Peter stood by a fire when Jesus was being tried, a young woman came up to him and said, haven’t I seen you with Him. Immediately Peter was affected by what he hears and he denies his Lord. This is the natural temperament of Peter, he is easily influenced, impetuous, and impulsive running after every word he hears. Jesus reads his heart instantly and says, your name is Simon, but you shall become a rock. Peter is going to be an anchorman, an immovable foundation upon which others will build, a steadying influence to everyone around him.
This is what captured Peter, here was a man who instantaneously read his weakness, but who also saw his great possibilities.”

And Jesus in this sweet moment shows that He is more than a man because He shows what He is going to do with Simon. He is going to make him a stable individual. And what happens to him? He becomes a stable individual, who ends up dying for his faith. And history shows us that he died upside down hanging on a cross because he didn’t feel worthy to die straight up like his Saviour.

So now carrying on it says in verse 43, “The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, Follow me.” Now we have to stop here because this is important. Jesus is working contrary to the way a Rabbi would typically work. In that culture it was common for followers to pursue Rabbis as we just saw Andrew and John doing. So you would see someone that you wanted to model your life after as a Rabbi, and you would go to them. But here Jesus is the Rabbi, and what is He doing? He says come follow me, Phillip. He makes the invitation. He invites him to come along.

And in verse 44 it says, “Now Phillip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.” Now, this is not Phillip the evangelist that you learn about in the book of Acts. This is a different Phillip. This is Phillip who was from Bethsaida. Bethsaida literally means ‘the place of fishery.’ So Phillip, Andrew, John and Peter were fishermen from the place of fishery, from Bethsaida. And the only two cities mentioned more in the gospels than Bethsaida was Capernaum and Jerusalem.

“Now Phillip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. And Phillip found Nathanael.” So Phillip thinks man, I have to find someone too. When you get saved, the gospel should be contagious in your life. We want to spread the good news to others. “And Phillip found Nathanael and said to him, We have found Him of who Moses in the law, and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of David.” Now Jesus was born where? Bethlehem. But He was from Nazareth, right? And here Phillip says to his buddy, Nathanael, “We found him whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets wrote.” When you see the phrase ‘the law and the prophets’ it is really just speaking of the Hebrew Scriptures in their entirety. We have found Him who all of our Scriptures speak about. He has come to fulfill what He has been set out to do.

And so how does Nathanael respond in this moment? Verse 46, “And Nathanael said to him, Can anything good come out of Nazareth? Can anything good come out of Nazareth? Why? Because Nazareth wasn’t like the place they were from, Bethsaida. It was small, it was insignificant. Just like Jesus is a humble leader to be from this small town. So “Phillip said to him, Come and see.”
When you get stuck and you don’t know how to answer objections that people have about Jesus, just say come and see. Come check Him out. We know that this one verse in Luke Chapter 24 and verse 27 reads, “And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” That’s how Jesus taught. Talk about authority. Imagine listening to Jesus and He says today if you will turn to Isaiah 53 we are going to talk about me here. And we are just going to unpack these verses and we are going to see how I fulfilled these. Right? I mean, that’s what Jesus did. He spent His ministry showing how He fulfilled those verses. And so Nathanael is like hey, can anything good come out of Nazareth. And Phillip says just come and see.

Verse 47, “Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him and said to him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit.” This is really, really important stuff here. And if you are familiar with your Old Testament, this will make this very meaningful to you. “Behold an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” Okay. Who was the person who inherited the name Israel? Jacob. What did Jacob’s name mean? Deceiver. He was a deceiver. And so here is this moment where Jesus says “Behold an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” Here is one that is not like Jacob. Here is someone without deceit. Here is someone who sees clearly.

And so Nathanael was blown away by this moment in verse 48, “And Nathanael said to Him, How do you know me? Jesus answered him, Well, before Phillip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Okay, so this is pretty weird here, right? I mean, Jesus is saying I am all knowing, I am omniscient, I know all. And so He was saying when Nathanael was under the fig tree He saw him. Now the fig tree in the Jewish culture was a common place to go for mediation. And so picture Nathanael there mediating under the fig tree, in this quiet solitary place, and Jesus tells him when no one saw you, I saw you.

And Jesus could still say the same thing about you and about me today. When you are spending time in devotion and seeking God, do you feel like, are you there, Jesus? Do you hear me, Jesus? Yes, He sees you. And the same thing is true for those of you that might be struggling with pornography. While you are sitting at your computer looking at the filth there, Jesus is watching. He sees what is taking place there right before your eyes.

And so Jesus is all knowing. In verse 49 it says, “Nathanael answered Him, Rabbi.” Again the word Rabbi means ‘my great one.’ “Rabbi, you are the son of God; you are the king of Israel.” Nathanael was convinced. He went from ‘can any good thing come out of Nazareth’ to ‘you are the son of God, you are the king of Israel.’ All that changed in a moment when he felt known by God. And you know that is what happens to us as believers. It is hard to explain it, and the Bible says that the gospel is
foolishness to those who are perishing. It says that they can’t comprehend what is taking place. But if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you know that. You know in your heart that God gets you. You know that He knows you. You know that you are thoroughly known and loved, and you can’t explain it. But it moves and stirs your affections, and it moves them Godward.

Verse 50, “Jesus answered him, Because I said to you I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these. And he said to him, Truly, truly I say to you, you will see Heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” This is good stuff right here. This is the kind of stuff where I just want to fall on my face and worship right here. I want to bring some stuff out here.

First of all, it says, “Truly, truly I say to you, you will see.” Circle the words you and you, because this is where looking at the Greek helps you to understand that the you is plural. So at this moment Jesus is not necessarily just speaking to Nathanael; He is speaking to all of His followers. And He is speaking to everyone around Him. The you is plural. I am speaking to you. I am speaking to you. That is what He is doing right there. You feel it? He is not speaking to you; He is speaking to you, to all of you in this moment. He says, “You will see Heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

All right. If you are familiar with your Bible, this is what is taking place here. And this is across the board when I looked and checked this out. The different commentaries, the scholars are all in agreement that more than likely here is what is happening. Jesus is referring him to the book of Genesis. Do you remember in the book of Genesis when Jacob the deceiver, the one in whom there was deceit, fell asleep on the rock, had a dream of angels ascending and descending on a ladder that was constructed all the way from Heaven to earth. Remember that? It is believed that Nathanael more than likely was under this fig tree having this devotion in the book of Genesis about angels ascending and descending up a ladder and he is reading his Bible, but then Jesus says hey, you are not only going to see that, it is not only going to be angels ascending and descending on a ladder, you are going to see angels ascending and descending on me because I am the ladder. I am the way to Heaven. I am the way you are going to get there. I am the Rabbi who will lead you up the ladder to Heaven. I will take you there.

And so here he is in this moment, you are Nathanael an Israelite in whom there is no deceit, and you have been reading about Jacob the deceiver under your fig tree. Well, hey, you are going to see greater things than that. You thought it was pretty cool about that ladder and the angels ascending and descending, but guess what? I am the ladder. I am the way up. I am the way to glory. I am the way to Heaven. And you will see angels ascending and descending, all of you, upon me. Folks, that is rich theology right there. I
mean it is good, good stuff right there. And I hope your insides are saying hallelujah, praise God, the ladder to Heaven has been revealed.

If you want your life to move and take a shift from being ordinary to extraordinary, you have to climb the ladder. You have to desire to see God’s glory and that is what is happening here. He is saying you are going to see more of my glory. If you thought that was some great glory in that moment of me knowing what you were doing, you are going to see way more glory. There is more glory to come. And the way the ordinary person becomes extraordinary in their life is they see the glory of God. And that is what we need to gaze at, that is what we need to behold, that is what we need to follow hard after, is the glory of God. Are you in pursuit of the glory of God in your life? Is that what you desire to see, God’s glory? What is God’s glory? It is His invisible presence that you can feel coming around you, supernaturally working through you.

So God loves to use ordinary people in extraordinary ways. And for those of you that are here today, let me simplify this message. If you don’t know Jesus your life has been ordinary. But if you want to give your life to Jesus, you must recognize this morning that He is your ladder. He is the only ladder to Heaven. You can only get to Heaven through Christ Jesus. He said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one gets to the Father but by me.”

I want to ask you a question. Are you on the ladder? Do you know Jesus? Did you know that He came down to die on the cross? And we know that there are angels all over that moment. And He rose from the grave. I’m telling you that you are going to die someday and if you want to know you are going to go and be in Heaven with Jesus, you are only going to get there through believing in Him. Have you trusted Him and asked Him for forgiveness of your sins this morning?

Let’s pray. Lord, we thank you for your Scriptures. And we love your word. And we just pray, God, that you would please help us to follow your Son, our Rabbi, our great one. And Lord, I pray for those in this room right now that might not know Jesus.

If you are out here this morning and you don’t have a personal relationship with Jesus, and you would like your sins forgiven, you would like your guilt removed, you would like to know that you are going to be eternally secure and live in Heaven forever, and have meaning and purpose in your life, then pray in the quietness of your heart right now with me.

Just pray: Dear Jesus, Dear Rabbi, thank you for coming down to earth to die on a cross for my sins. I don’t understand it all, but something in my heart knows that you can forgive me of my sins. And I ask you to forgive me, and I thank you that three days later you arose from the grave, and that shows me that when I die I am going to be raised.
up, and I am going to live with you forever. Be my Saviour. I repent, I turn away from my sins, and I am going to walk with you. Take my ordinary life and use it in extraordinary ways. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

The preceding transcript was completed using raw audio recordings. As much as possible, it includes the actual words of the message with minor grammatical changes and editorial clarifications to provide context. Hebrew and Greek words are spelled using Google Translator and the actual spelling may be different in some cases.