



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE  
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

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# THE POWER OF THE UNREMARKABLE

*A Study in God's Method for Showcasing the "Wow"*



## The Question

*Eric, do you believe the Church at Ellerslie is functioning in a full-scale Biblical pattern of Truth, Love, Obedience, Holiness, and Holy-Spirit Power?*

## My Answer

*Um, no*

## The Follow-up Question

*Well, Eric, what do you plan on doing about this awful discrepancy?*

## My Answer

*Hmmm. Good question. Well, first, I'm going to preach this message.*

## A Father and a Child

Hudson,

This command I leave with you. Take all of my future books, sermons, teachings, radio interviews, and international speaking engagements, and fulfill these projects in the same way that you know I would have fulfilled them. If you love me, obey this command.

Love,

Your Daddy

## The Commission is Clear

But, a father does not overlook the preparation

Hudson,

To fulfill this high calling I have left you with a Helper. Right now you are thirteen years old and unready for this challenge. But, if you heed my Helper's voice and obey Him in all matters, He will groom you to carry weights that currently you can't carry. Prove faithful in these small, mundane exercises of your soul, and you will be prepared to do things that will demonstrate the supernatural power of Jehovah.

Love,

Your Daddy

## Growth is as Growth is

It is marked by stages, gradients, and degrees

## Introducing the Mundane

the unexciting, the uninteresting, the uneventful, the unvarying, the unremarkable, the routine, the ordinary, the everyday

## The Mundane

The Thoroughfare for God's Greatest Work

## Understanding the Nature of His Working

It's in and through the mundane that God reveals His power. It's a purposeful limitation. Many of us feel the necessity to prove God in the glamorous, when God has chosen the humble means through which to reveal His glory.

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty . . .

**1 Corinthians 1:27**

## Don't Miss Jesus While Looking for the Wow

The Scribes and Pharisees were looking for the Wow of the Messiah and ended up being the ringleaders in killing the very Messiah for which they were waiting.

## The Seven Principles of Heaven's Work (the work of Jesus, the work of Grace)

1. It's humble in its method.
2. It's often understated in its manner.
3. It's easy to be overlooked.
4. It's always in agreement with His nature (without sin and guile)
5. It's often silent in its moment of greatest triumph.
6. It's often dismissed, mocked, and diminished by those looking for a "Wow" - a different, more glittering Messiah.
7. Yet, nonetheless, it's obvious to the God-awakened observer that truly this was the work of God.

## The Return of Power

It hinges on our readiness to let the mundane aspects of life declare His Glory

- We want to raise dead men to life, but are we first willing to take every thought captive to the will of Christ Jesus?
- We want to throw mountains into the midst of the sea, but are we first willing to love our brother the way Christ loves our brother?
- We want to walk on water, but are we first willing to forgive our father for his unkind actions?

## The Kingdom of Heaven is Like This . . .

*First prove faithful with a little and  
then I will entrust you with more.*

OR

*First exercise my grace in the mundane aspects of your life  
and then even greater grace will be supplied.*

## How God Makes the Mundane Marvelous

## Consider His Wonders?

- To Make a Helper for Adam?
- To Reveal Himself to Moses?
- To Part a Red Sea?
- To Knock out a Giant?
- To Feed Five Thousand?
- To Heal the Man Sick with the Palsy?
- To Heal the Blind Man?

## God Uses The Mundane

- A Rib
- A Bush
- Winds
- A Smooth Stone
- Fishes and Loaves
- Four Men
- Spittle and Dirt

## The Revelation of His Glory

- The Word of God in Text (men carried along by the Holy Spirit)
- The Word of God in Person (Mary's womb)
- The Word of God in and through the Church (our humble bodies, our humble lips, our humble lives)

## God Uses Mundane Tools

And, um, we are those mundane tools

## Could He Do it Without Mundane Tools?

Of course. But, in His manifold wisdom, He has seen fit to showcase His glory through weak and foolish things. Our God has chosen to do this. Why must we argue? He knows what He is doing.

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised,

hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

### 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

## The Tools of Jehovah

- Mundane Tools (us)
- Mundane Circumstances

## So, What About the Wow?

## The Redeemed of the Lord

The water-walking, mountain-moving, storm-calming, body-transporting, bread-multiplying, dead-raising, treasure of Jehovah

## David and the Wow

- Step One: Deep humility, life in the mundane work of grace
- Step Two: Deep humility, life in the mundane work of grace
- Step Three: Deep humility, life in the mundane work of grace
- Step Four, Five, Six, and Seven: Deep humility, life in the mundane work of grace
- Step Eight: The Wow

## Hudson's Yearning . . .

If I really am the son of Eric Ludy, and it's true that I have the DNA for full and complete manhood, then . . .

*I should be 6'1", I should be at least 170 pounds, I should be able to get married and have kids, I should be able to drive a car, I should be able to get on a plane all by myself and fly around the world, I should be able to define my own schedule, I should be able to preach the sermon this upcoming Sunday, I should be able to take over at Ellerslie and run it.*

# The Yearning for Growth

If we really are the Church of Jesus Christ, then . . .

*We should be greeting each other with a holy kiss, speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues, despising not prophecy, all coming to the service with a song, a hymn, or a spiritual song, functioning in the gifts of the Spirit, demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit, commanding lame people to walk, blind people to see, dead people to come forth from their graves, casting out demons, drinking poison unaffected, walking on water, commanding mountains to be thrown into the sea, multiplying fishes and loaves of bread and feeding thousands, calming winds and waves, and body transporting from here to there.*

## So, How Do We Become an Empowered Church Once Again?

### We Must Prove Faithful with Little

Then we will be entrusted with more!

### We Must Live Large in the Mundane Moments

- When no one is looking
- When no one will ever know
- When no one can applaud us
- When it doesn't seem very impressive or grand
- When the "Wow" seems so very far away
- We must live large in such moments, as if the entire world hinged on our obedience in that singular moment

### Normative

That which is normal. That which is always. That which is the everyday.

- It is normative to boat across water and not walk across water.
- It is normative to feed a few persons with a few loaves and fishes and not five thousand people



- It is normative that when people die, they, um, just die
- It is normative to travel from here to there and not be body transported from here to there
- It is normal to hike over mountains and not pick them up and throw them into the midst of the sea

## The Normal Christian

- One who, when he needs to cross water, whether in a boat or walking on it, sings songs of praise the entire time, rapturously in love with his Redeemer
- One who, when it comes to eating, shows the honorable behavior of heaven in his eating, whether he is simply eating a meal, giving his meal away, or praying over the meal to see it multiplied to feed five-thousand
- One utterly convinced that Jesus is the resurrection and the life and that Death has no sting for those clothed in Christ Jesus. He shrugs his shoulders at death, for his vision is far beyond this temporal vapor - he is caught up in a life that is eternal, not merely measured by the stretch of time this mortal body can last.
- One who goes from here to there with the love of Jesus radiating from his face, the Gospel emanating from his life, and the mercies of Jehovah gushing from his soul. Whether he is “body transported” or he needs to walk every inch of the territory between here and there in the hot baking sun - no matter, for every inch between here and there will see and know Jesus better if he needs pass through it
- One who is not intimidated by mountains. One convinced that mountains won’t stop his forward progression. And whether that be due to the buoying grace that God supplies for the mountain climb, or the mighty power of grace that picks up the mountain and heaves it into the sea, the Normal Christian walks forward knowing he will surely make it.

## The Ellerslie Church and the Wow

- Step One: Deep humility, life in the mundane work of grace
- Step Two: Deep humility, life in the mundane work of grace
- Step Three: Deep humility, life in the mundane work of grace
- Step Four, Five, Six, and Seven: Deep humility, life in the mundane work of grace
- Step Eight: The Wow