



**O Little Town of Bethlehem:  
How God Can Use Me to Do Extraordinary Things**  
Kerrick Thomas, Lead Pastor  
December 4, 2022

*"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf." - Micah 5:2*

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight

(Written in 1868 by Pastor Philip Brooks, Philadelphia, PA)

*"The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." - 1 Samuel 16:7*

**How God Can Use Ordinary Me for His Extraordinary Purposes**

**1. God Can Use Ordinary Me When I am Open to be Used by Him.**

*"God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary... Gabriel appeared to her and said, 'Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!' Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 'Don't be afraid, Mary,' the angel told her, 'for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.'... Mary responded, 'I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true.'" - Luke 1:26-31,38*

## **2. God Can Use Ordinary Me When I am Faithful with the Small Things He Puts Before Me.**

*(Jesus) "If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities." - Luke 16:10*

*"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people." - Colossians 3:23*

## **3. God Can Use Ordinary Me When I Step Put of My Comfort Zone as he leads.**

*"About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem... And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him." - Matthew 2:1,9-11*

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."  
- Proverbs 3:5-6*

## **4. God Can Use Ordinary Me When I am Fully Surrendered to His Will.**

*"An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. 'Joseph, son of David,' the angel said, 'do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'... When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded." - Matthew 1:20-21,23*

### **Memory Verse:**

*(Jesus) "May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." - Matthew 6:10*

Join us next Sunday, December 11 as we continue our “**Christmas Carols**” teaching series with *Hark The Herald Angels Sing: Experiencing The Real Jesus This Christmas*. Invite your friends and family and join us in-person at 11am at the AMC Empire 25 Theater in Times Square or for church online at 9am, 11am, & 1pm (plus additional online service times including Saturdays at 5pm or 7pm).

- *If you made a first-time decision to follow Jesus today, email [follower@journeynyc.com](mailto:follower@journeynyc.com) to receive a free copy of “The Next Step for Your Journey” book, plus other helpful materials.*
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### **My Next Step Today is to:**

- ☐ Memorize Matthew 6:10.
- ☐ Ask God to use me for his extraordinary purposes.
- ☐ Learn more about being baptized next Sunday, December 11 at the Final Baptism of 2022 (12:15pm-12:45pm, after the 11am in-person service).
- ☐ Receive info on attending the special Walk Thru the Bible New Testament Seminar (identical seminars – pick only one):
  - ☐ Sat, Jan 28 from 9:30am – 12:30pm
  - ☐ Sun, Jan 29 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm

All verses are from the New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

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