

# 4 – Pasture

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**Introduction:** My life as a kid, up through college and several years into ministry was a quest to show that I was special... I chose different things. In high school, it was athletic ability—I was as tall as I am right now in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. I dominated. I thought I had a rich career ahead... between 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade all my friends grew up and got as tall as, or taller than me. I was telling this to Tyler Zeller, who goes to our church, and he laughed, and said, “I knew a lot of guys that happened to.” I said to him, “That didn’t really happen to you, did it?” No. He’s 7’1”. About my junior year of high school it painfully set in on me that I would not be extraordinary because of my athletic skill.

So I turned to academics. My Jr year... they told us that we could get out of 6<sup>th</sup> period if we wanted to go do the spelling bee... I was like, “get out of 6<sup>th</sup> period; I think it was health... sure...” my competitive juices got flowing, and I lost all presence of mind and won the thing. The teacher said, “Congratulations, you get to represent our school at the state spelling bee.” Now, I knew this was not good for high school boy’s image. Wait... no... cat... KAT. But I did push myself to distinguish myself academically. And then in seminary it was who could be the best theologian; and then the most eloquent preacher. All my life I have been trying to show that I am not ordinary; I am extraordinary. I am distinguished from other people.

Today, I want to help you embrace your ordinariness, and show you that it is the ordinary things about you, the ordinary experiences of your life, which God most uses to reveal Himself as extraordinary. Today is going to be counter-intuitive. I want you to celebrate your ordinariness!

**David:** The story of David that we are studying is about Israel’s search for a King. Today, you are going to learn some significant things about what God is searching for in a king, and how God goes about choosing and making a king.

**1 Samuel 16:** Here is what is going on. Samuel is in deep distress because of the sin of Saul. Saul turned out not to be anything like what he had hoped.

- Samuel had had this vision of a king (given to him by his mother, Hannah) who would be faithful to God and faithful to the people...
  - a king would love and trust God and would teach the people to do the same; and a king who could use his power to bless and serve the people, to promote justice and lift up the needy.
  - The kind of King that would not have to command the allegiance of the people, he would win it from them. The people would be willing to die for him because they could see he was willing to die for them.
- Saul turned out to be faithful to nobody but himself... and so Samuel is really depressed—depressed like if you were about to get married and found out the person you were marrying is not at all who they told you they were—they were a fraud. Samuel had such high hopes, and they were shattered.

[16:1] The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a \*king among his sons.” (new)

[2] And Samuel said, “How can I go? If \*Saul hears it, he will kill me.” (monument boy)

And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Is that a little shady? "I came to sacrifice to the Lord..." which is true, "...and while I'm here, I thought I'd choose a new king to replace you."

[3] And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you."

[4] Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem.

- OK, so here's what is going on... Samuel is supposed to go to Bethlehem to offer some ritual sacrifice. But he's got another agenda, and that is to choose a king.
- So, what would happen is all the city would come together, like in a big football stadium (or whatever they had in those days, the sheep racing arena) and they'd offer the sacrifice.
- And Samuel is supposed to make sure Jesse and his sons are there.

So Samuel gets to Bethlehem, and... The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

- You gotta love Samuel... Samuel is the Chuck Norris of ancient Israel...
  - They are like, "Do you come peaceably, or are you here to whoop tail?"
  - They probably had jokes about him...
    - Samuel didn't wet his bed as a child; the bed wet itself out of fear. (Y'all know CN jokes)?
    - CN doesn't churn butter; CN roundhouse kicks his cows and the butter comes straight out.<sup>1</sup>

[5] And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

- Consecrating was where you offer yourself to God in front of the community.
- Well, imagine what it was like as word spread through the crowd that this was more than a sacrifice; a new king was being chosen. And then, as word got around that it was going to be one of the sons of Jesse.
- So, as each one comes before the crowd they are doing their best to look kingly.

Out comes Eliab, the oldest. Eliab was good looking, tall, a commanding presence, and Samuel thought (v. 6)...

~~([6] When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought,)~~ "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." [7] But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him.

"For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

- Write that down. This is the heart of the passage. God doesn't ever look at what we look at. He looks at the heart.
  - God never looks at someone and says, "Wow, that guy is built," or "nice resume," or "great car," or "sweet haircut," or "what a body" or, "You made how much make last year?" None of that.
- He looks where? (Point to it). The heart.
- Question: Is that good news or bad news?

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<sup>1</sup> He could blow bubbles with beef jerky. When Chuck Norris gets pulled over, he lets the cop off with a warning. Chuck Norris and superman once made a bet. The loser had to start wearing his underpants on the outside.

- In one sense, it should be good news. Some of you have lived under such incredible stress trying to become something impressive and the good news is that that is not what God is looking for.
- In another, it's bad news. Who here feels like they have the kind of heart like what God wants?
- Before we move on... Let me ask you another question: How much time do you spend thinking about the externals, compared to the amount of time you spend thinking about your heart?
  - Girls, some of you spend so much time thinking about what you look like on the outside, but little to nothing about what your heart looks like. How you look, the shape of your body... none of that stuff God looks at! God looks where? Your heart.
    - Let me ask you this: What would your exterior look like if you spent as much time on it as you do your spirit? If you treated your body like you do your heart you'd be obese, smelly, hair all in a mess. You cram the equivalent of fatty foods into your spirit all day long; you never work it out, clean it.
  - Some of you spend so much time on your resume... NOT what God looks at. God looks at the heart.
  - So here's the question you need to be asking: Whose opinion are you more worried about? **If you spend more time on your exterior (your body or your resume) than you do your heart, it must be that you value other people's opinions more than you value God's.**
- God looks at the heart. Samuel should have known this, shouldn't he? Saul had all the impressive credentials. Is he really going to make that mistake again? Choose Eliab because he looks kingly? We'll find out in a couple of chapters that Eliab is critical, arrogant, fearful and doesn't trust God.

[8] Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

- This guy should be rejected just for his name... doesn't roll off the tongue, does it? King Abinadab. Ababadabaddab.

[9] Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." He looked like a whale.

[10] And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."

- Like Cinderella! They are all trying to cram their foot in the slipper...

[11] Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?"

- Kind of a dumb question, isn't it... you got any more kids?

And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep."

- **Youngest: "haqqaton,"** which some Hebrew scholars say carries the connotation in Hebrew of "the runt"
- And he's keeping the sheep...which was shameful in that day. Slaves and social rejects were shepherds. Job that required no real skill set at all.
- The point here is that David is not even considered. Not even by his own father!
  - If there were 8 guys in the room, he would literally be the last one you'd look at and say, "That's your future king."

And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here."

- "We will not sit down until he gets here..." Is it me, or does Samuel strike you as kind of an ornery guy?

- “Jesse, you got any more sons?” Jesse says, “Well, yeah, one more but he’s just a little shepherd boy...” and Samuel is like, “(sigh)... Jesse, what did I say? I said all your sons. Was that hard to understand?” Fine, go get him. And we’re all just going to stand here till you get back... we’re not going to sit down, we’re not going to eat... we’re just going to stand here and wait...”
- So some guy goes tearing out across the field to find David.

[12] And he sent and brought him in.

- David: Who is going to watch the sheep?

Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome.

- Ruddy: some say this means he was red-headed, or freckled. Others say this means that he was dirty, disheveled, tanned, and smelled like the pasture.
- But he had pretty eyes, and was handsome.
- The point is, he doesn’t look like a king, like a man of war. He looks like a little runt kid with a little boy face. He’s Justin Bieber... He’s a Jonas Brother.

And the LORD said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.” David, we would later learn, though thoroughly unimpressive on the outside, was a man after God’s own heart.

[13] Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.

As we look into this passage, here’s what I see:

### 1. David was ordinary

- That is the whole point of this story. You say, but wait... didn’t David’s life turn out to be extraordinary... the whole David and Goliath thing? And writing all the psalms? And didn’t he become the greatest king ever?
- Yeah, but those were all the result of the Spirit of God being on David. When he killed Goliath he was bringing lunchables to his brothers. When he wrote the Psalms he was hanging out alone in the pasture, or hiding in caves.
- David became extraordinary not because there was anything extraordinary about him, but because God’s Spirit was mightily upon him. **And the reason David had access to the power of an extraordinary God was because he didn’t think he was extraordinary in himself, like Saul did.**
- We have a culture that tells us exactly the opposite. Everywhere we turn, we have this self-help culture which tries to make you think you are extraordinary. And the church, just about everywhere you turn, repeats all these lies.
- **James MacDonald gives 4 cultural lies the world teaches and the church parrots.**
  - You are unique**
    - “You are unique. You are! You’re a snowflake. Yes you are! There’s no one in the world just like you!” There is a fraction of truth in that. Unique fingerprint, your DNA. But in another, more profound sense, you are not unique ordinary. You’re made out of the same stuff everybody else is. Yes, you are fearfully and wonderfully made, but in another sense, you are not lifted above everyone else and special and unique.
    - You show me anywhere in the Bible that it tries to set you apart and puff up your ego by talking about uniqueness. J.D. Greear is not special. There are lots of people with gifts just like J.D. I’m not above the crowd.

- The book of James in the NT says, Elijah, the greatest prophet in the OT was a man with a nature just like ours.”
- This whole culture that says, “Discover your uniqueness” takes an ounce of truth and then mixes it with just pure narcissism.
- And the church parrots it.
- Christians are not supposed to be extraordinary people. They are to be ordinary people with an extraordinary God. A bunch of nobodies pointing to a great big Somebody.
- You are ordinary. Everybody turn to your neighbor and say, “You’re so ordinary.” Now you look back and say, “You are too, bro.”

## ii. You are your work

- I’m a doctor. I’m a lawyer. I’m a garbage man... it’s the 2<sup>nd</sup> question we ask. David was a shepherd. Lowest job in society.
- Others say you are your network: you are who you know. So we name drop.
- Work; network; some say you are your net worth; the kind of house you live in, the kind of car you drive, these determine your status.

## iii. God needs you

- He needs your talents. Newsflash: he doesn’t. It’s like we learned from Esther a few weeks ago, “if you don’t do this, God will bring salvation from another place. And you’ll miss the blessing.”
- If I don’t do it, God will find somebody who will. I’ll miss the blessing, but God will get it done. He doesn’t need me.
- **Cat and dog theology.** Years ago a friend gave me some CD’s called “Cat and Dog theology.” They were kind of goofy... but they built this whole case on the difference in dogs and cats...
  - When you come to the door, the dog runs up to you and wants to be close to you. What does the cat do? It kind of lurks in the background and looks at you.
  - When the dog wants to go out, the dog goes over and paws at the door. What does the cat do? It sits there and subtly looks at the door and waits for you to figure it out. Then after you open the door, it just kind of looks at you for awhile, and then maybe will slink out if he feels like it.
  - How do you make a dog happy? Cat happy?
  - Here’s the main point: The dog says, you feed me, you take care of me, you play with me...you must be God. The cat says, you feed me, you take care of me, you play with me...I must be God.
  - A lot of times we think that we’re so special and that’s why God loves us. No, God is special and we are a bunch of nobodies who are allowed to worship this wonderfully large somebody. That’s the 3<sup>rd</sup> identity lie, that God needs you.

## iv. You must chase your dreams

- Jesus did not dream of going to the cross. Paul did not dream of being shipwrecked 3 times and dying in prison. They did these things because that’s what God called them to and what the world needed.
- Being a follower of Jesus means you often die to your dreams.

## 2. Because David was ordinary, God could be extraordinary through David.

- [13] ...And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.
- What would make David, David; what gave him an eternally extraordinary life was the Spirit of God on David.

- What made Pharaoh take a foreign criminal and make him the 2<sup>nd</sup> most powerful man in Egypt? Talking about Joseph in the book of Genesis. The Spirit of God was with him.
- What enabled Gideon to take 300 men and defeat the entire Midianite army without the 1<sup>st</sup> casualty? Says the Spirit of God came on him.
- How could Samson kill 1000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey?
- Moses was overburdened, too much to do leading the people, so he appointed 70 elders... but the people didn't want to go to them, they wanted to go to Moses, until they saw (Numbers 11:25) the Spirit of Lord descend on these guys.
- What gave the early church the power to defy the Roman Empire and testify boldly to Jesus even when it cost them their lives? Acts 4 says it was because they were filled with the Spirit. The Spirit of God came into them so powerfully that it says the room they were in was shaken and then they went out and turned the world upside down.
- Zechariah would sum up all the great and powerful people in the Bible by saying, "It's 'not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord." (4:6)
- **You want to know why I want you to embrace your ordinariness? Because it's only as you cease trying to be Saul that God can be extraordinary through you.**
  - My friend, God won't share His glory, so He takes the ordinary, the plain and the outcast and pours His power into them. His miracles come to those who are weak in themselves but strong in their confidence in God.
- All your life you have wanted to be head and shoulders above everyone. Distinguished. Above the crowd. Smart. Talented. Funny. And unfortunately, that's why is never really going to be able to use you.
  - Adrian Rogers illustration. 1 Cor 1:27
- Some of you guys are like, "But J.D., I am extraordinary! My daddy said I am. And so do my professors and my coaches. I'm here at UNC, or Duke, or State, or Central, on a full scholarship." Yes, compared to everyone else, you might be extraordinary.
  - Like Saul. And you're going to end up like him. You don't have what the world really needs. That was found in God.
  - David, as Israel's king, would write Psalm 23... The Lord is my Shepherd. Which means David saw himself as a sheep.
    - Sheep are idiots.
      - Dumb: They follow grass. Walk right into danger, off of cliffs and into powerful rivers.
      - Incapable: cast
    - If sheep survive; if sheep get to where they need to go; it's never because of their skill as sheep, it's always because of the shepherd.
    - David saw himself as a sheep, and he never got over that, not even when he was king.
  - The Lord is my shepherd. I'm a sheep. And sheep are idiots.
  - So, yes, you are smart; yes you are extraordinary. For a sheep. Sheep are idiots. Imagine a proud sheep. Embrace your sheepliness, so that the Shepherd can be large in your life.
- Only one person in your life can be seen as great. Only one person can be a Somebody. Are you willing for that to be you, or God?

### 3. God made David extraordinary in the pasture

- Let me pull a point out of a place you've never heard one pulled out of. Right after vs. 13... the white space. The Spirit of God rushes on David vs. 13. David in that white space goes back to the pasture.

- Imagine how momentous this moment was for David. Samuel, the most important prophet in Israel, seeks you out, says God has chosen you, and pours oil on your head. You feel it run down your hair and neck.
- And then, where does David go? Immediately into an elite King training program? Start getting interviewed by People magazine? Down to the Dept store to try on crowns and robes?
- Nope. Back to the pasture. Vs. 19, when they look for David a few years later, they have to go get David back out in the pasture.
  - i. And here is what is more... Even when things start happening in David's life, Saul gets jealous of him and starts to hunt him **(FOR HOW LONG?)** I am king, but look at what is happening to me! God has there been some mistake?
- **No. God uses the pasture to prepare his king.** In the pasture God builds into you His skill and the character. The world and God have 2 different things they are looking for in their leaders, so they use 2 different methods.
- Chuck Swindoll says that 3 words characterize David's time in the pasture... I'll add 1 to his list and make them 4:
  - i. Obscurity: no one paid any attention to him.
  - ii. Monotony:
    - "David... what did you do today?" Watched the sheep. They walked from here to there...
    - "What else?" I worked a little with this slingshot. You wouldn't believe this. I can knock that apple off the tree from 100 yards. Want to see?" "I don't really care, David.
    - Anything else? Well, I got so bored I played the harp. Wrote a couple of songs. Want to hear one?" No, I don't.
    - A few months ago, "A lion and bear attacked the sheep. I'll killed one of them with my bare hands. Can anyone verify that, David?" No.
  - iii. Suffering
    - David is driven out of his home, his country, pursued like a dog and he hadn't done anything wrong!
  - iv. Reality
    - In the pasture, God developed David's skill...
      - With the slingshot: that would come in handy later.
      - With the harp: David would become the world's most famous songwriter, ever.
      - He developed David's courage: when he looks at Goliath, he would say, 'If God gave me the ability to kill a lion and bear... I could probably also handle Goliath. I mean, putting a rock in someone's head is the same whether it's a bear or giant.'
      - I'm sure he learned humility. He probably was reminded where he came from and when God chose him.
      - And patience... God taught him to wait, and trust.
    - **Psalm 78:72** says about David **"With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand."** Those things, skill and character, come from the pasture.
- Church: This is still what God does...
  - Hey mom... what did you do today? Changed diapers. Did they appreciate it? No. What's your motivation? Col. 3:23 – whatever you do, do it with all your heart **to the Lord**. What if one of those kids grows up to lead 1000's to Christ.
  - Businessman or woman... what did you do today? Worked a dead-end job. Who knows what God is doing with your faithfulness.
  - Hey student... what did you do? My coursework. Studied some lame things about history and calculus I'll never use. Maybe God is working in you character, and patience, and honesty.

- **Bruce:** Pasture time: “Faithfulness in the small produces power in the big”
- Do not despise the pasture; do not despise suffering; these are God’s laboratory for forming in you that heart He wants.
- Do you want to, like David, be a man after God’s own heart? Then God will have to prepare you like He did David.
- Don’t waste it
  - Don’t waste your suffering; Don’t waste your pasture
  - Concerned with this in you b/c I see it in me... God created David’s heart through long periods of silence, solitude, reflection, prayer... David could not have become David had the TV been on the whole time! Turn it off. Limit yourself to 1 show a night. I’m so tired at night... take a walk with God. Go to bed early and get up earlier.

#### 4. Jesus would be the truly ordinary-extraordinary

- Something I come back to a lot. Don’t read this story as if it is all about you. I read evangelical commentators who say, basically, “The point of this is if you just hang on... you’ll kill your Goliath and people will one day write Bible books about you!” Or, they read the thing about God looking at the heart and they say, “the moral of the story is, ‘don’t judge a book by its cover!’” Like this is some lame Disney movie.
- No. These stories are not primarily about you. All this stuff is pointing you to a much greater Story than your own. Here’s the main point:
  - David looks ordinary, is anointed, and then the Spirit of the Lord rushes on him. But then he goes back into the pasture and will spend the next 10 years of his life in obscurity and suffering.
  - Jesus was a carpenter. He had a regular, blue collar job. He wasn’t a rising ruler. He wasn’t even a rabbi. He would not have been in Who’s Who or any “Who to Watch” next list.
  - Then he was anointed. In fact, the word “anointed” used here in 1 Samuel in Hebrew is “meschach,” and out of that word comes “Mesheach,” or ‘Messiah,’ which means anointed one. In Greek, that is translated Christ. Jesus, the Christ, the ultimately anointed one.
  - Like David, when Jesus was anointed, the Holy Spirit rushed upon Him, like a dove.
  - Then He was taken by the Spirit... where...? into the wilderness where he was tested for 40 days. He wasn’t ushered to the throne. In fact, it was Satan who came to him during that time and offered Jesus the throne in a way that would shortcut the pasture and the suffering.
  - But Jesus said, “No. Satan This is not about my personal kingdom, this is about God’s. And my first role is to suffer and die. Jesus’ time on earth would not be spent in power and privilege, but in obscurity, suffering and the cross.
  - But the reality was that God would use His life of suffering and the cross to save the world.
- The main point of all this is NOT that if you hang on, God will put you on the throne of Israel. That seat is already taken. The point is that Jesus is on throne, and that those of us who live to extend His kingdom will do so in the same way David and Jesus did.
- I might die in the pasture. I might die on the cross. But through ordinariness; through suffering; through faithfulness in small things, God builds the kingdom of Jesus.
  - David was anointed, filled with the Spirit, then went back to the pasture and was hunted down by Saul.
  - Christ was anointed, filled with the Spirit and went to the cross.
  - 2 Cor 1:22 says that you are anointed. God put His Spirit in you which is like an anointing that guarantees our choosing to God. Guess where you might be headed?
  - You say, “Ahhh... but eventually David and Jesus got to the throne. My destiny is to be on the throne.” Sure, but maybe not in this life. The point is that because Jesus is on the throne, you

will one day share that with Him eternally in heaven, so you don't have to get there on this earth now.

- The Gospel is that we share in His victorious position. So, if you die on this earth in the pasture or in the wilderness, or on the cross, that is not the ultimate verdict on your life. We are seated with Christ in the heavenly places.
- Maybe you are in the pasture, or you are being pursued unjustly by some Saul... What I can promise you is this... God is bringing His greatest works out of your faithfulness.
- Obey in the small and God will give you power in the great. Before you can be a leader in great things, you have to be faithful in small things.

# Bullpen:

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- I read evangelical commentators whose main takeaway from this is, “Don’t judge a book by its cover!”
- If you are in a pasture, or on a cross, or in a wilderness being pursued by Saul, hang on to Christ’s victory, knowing that eventually His victory will become yours.
- I read evangelical commentators whose main takeaway from this is, “Don’t judge a book by its cover!”
- The point is, God does His greatest work through humble faithfulness.
- The lesson of this is not “don’t judge a book by its cover.” It’s about Jesus.
- David—Jesus—us
- In Jesus, we find our identity and purpose for living, too.

David was a faithful follower before he was a faithful leader. David had no idea that this was where this was going...

- Faithfulness... story of Dillard’s
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## Psalm 37

And they go get him and he comes bumbling in smelling like sheep while all the other brothers are standing in a line looking like the girls in the Miss America pageant who have been passed over, hoping the candidate will trip and bust our her teeth or something...

- So, Samuel says to Jesse, “You got any more boys?” Kind of a dumb question. But Jesse says, well, yes, one, (16:11), “the
- David has an idol of his own
- The point is not that David should be King; the point is that Jesus will be king, and so David can be happy in the pasture
- What did David do: he didn’t go to the dept store and try on crowns; or didn’t order a new set of business cards and say, change that from “David: shepherd,” to “David: king-elect.” 16:8–9: David is back with the flock!
- ***David’s greatness was not developed in the battlefield, but in the pasture.***
- We want God to choose us, then prepare us and send us out, all at once. Rarely happens that way. You get chosen while you’re in the pasture, and then God sends you back there.
- “Solitude molds self-righteous people into gentle, forgiving people, who are so deeply convinced of their own sinfulness, and even more deeply convinced of God’s great mercy, that their life itself becomes a ministry.” Henry Nouwen
- I’ve never heard of someone who was hurried, frenzied, and deep? Many of you are like a phoneless cord.
- Lifeguard... me thrashing about.
- If you don’t embrace your ordinariness, God can never be extraordinary in you. God won’t share glory.
  - People can never relate to you. You can’t help people
  - I can inspire, but not transform. But if I am ordinary, then I can direct you to an extraordinary God, whom you have every bit the access to God that I do.

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Intro:

Have you ever been at a place where you thought more should be happening in your life than actually was? ESPN highlights...all the buildup to that one shot, as if that one shot won the game! What about the other 85 points? God is not just in the highlights, he is in the trenches.

- Turn back to your neighbor... you're not just ordinary, you are a sheep.
- Some of this is very offensive to you, because you are a lot more American than you are Christian. God will go to war against your pride.
  - Why does God love you? Not because you are special. Because He loves you.
  - **Veronica's love for me:** Shortly after we married I asked Veronica if she'd ever been in love before me. She said, "I don't know, but I know I'm in love with you." How do you know? I once respected a guy I dated for his stunning intellect. I admired another for his courage and character. I was once captivated by another guy's good looks and charm. But with you, well, how else could you explain it other than love?"

Quit trying to distinguish yourself.