

**Extraordinary Living: Lessons in Faith from  
Ordinary People**  
*“Obedience Despite Circumstances”*

Part 3  
July 09 2017



**1. God uses circumstances to grow our \_\_\_\_\_**

*John 6:5-6 “Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, “Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?”<sup>6</sup> He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.” (NLT)*

- Circumstances reveal the \_\_\_\_\_ of our faith  
*John 6:7 “Philip replied, “Even if we worked for months, we wouldn’t have enough money to feed them!” (NLT)*
- Circumstances are simply the \_\_\_\_\_ to God’s agenda  
*“...for he already knew what he was going to do.”*

**2. God only uses \_\_\_\_\_**

*John 6:8-9 “Then Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up.<sup>9</sup> “There’s a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?” (NLT)*

- God doesn’t expect us to have all the \_\_\_\_\_ necessary.
- Obedience moves our lives into the realm of the \_\_\_\_\_  
*John 5:19 “So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.” (NLT)*

*John 12:49 “I don’t speak on my own authority. **The Father** who sent me has commanded me **what** to say and how to say it.” (NLT)*

**3. God responds out of His \_\_\_\_\_**

*John 6:10-11 “Tell everyone to sit down,” Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.)<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted.” (NLT)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ unleashes the unlimited resources of God  
Notice how much power, strength and impact is promised to those who follow Jesus.  
*Eph. 3:16 “I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.” (NLT)*

*Eph. 3:20 “Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.” (NLT)*

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- Obedience produces an \_\_\_\_\_  
*John 6:14 "When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, "Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!" (NLT)*

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**Discussion Questions:**

1. How do you feel about God using circumstances to grow your faith? Share examples from your own faith journey.
2. How do you feel about circumstances being a precursor to God's agenda?
3. Why do we feel like we have to problem solve and provide all that is needed when God only asks us for what we have?
4. What do you think about the statement that obedience moves us in to the realm of the Kingdom of God?
5. Read the Eph. 3 passages and discuss why it is so difficult to truly believe these truths when we face circumstances?
6. How does obedience in the midst of circumstances create an undeniable testimony to the world?
7. Do have some areas of your life where you are allowing circumstances to dictate your level of obedience?

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