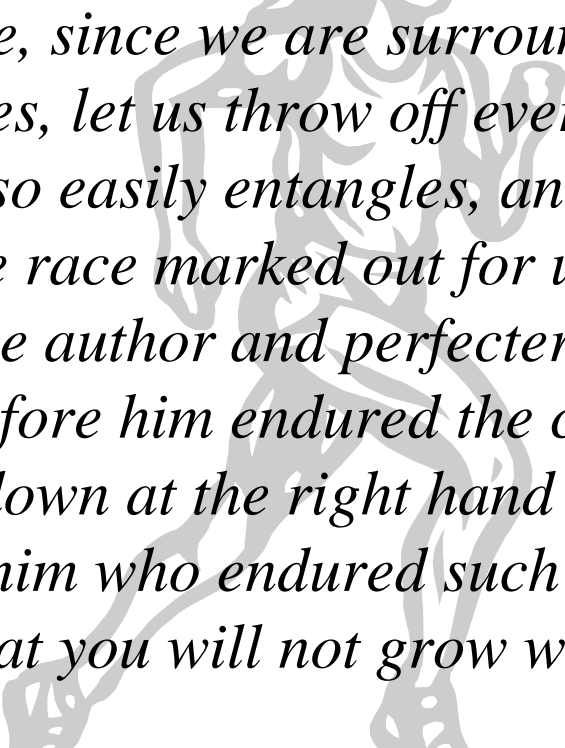


Give and Serve Generously

Summer Series based on Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”



Give and Serve Generously

Three Things to Remember

1. Consider Them

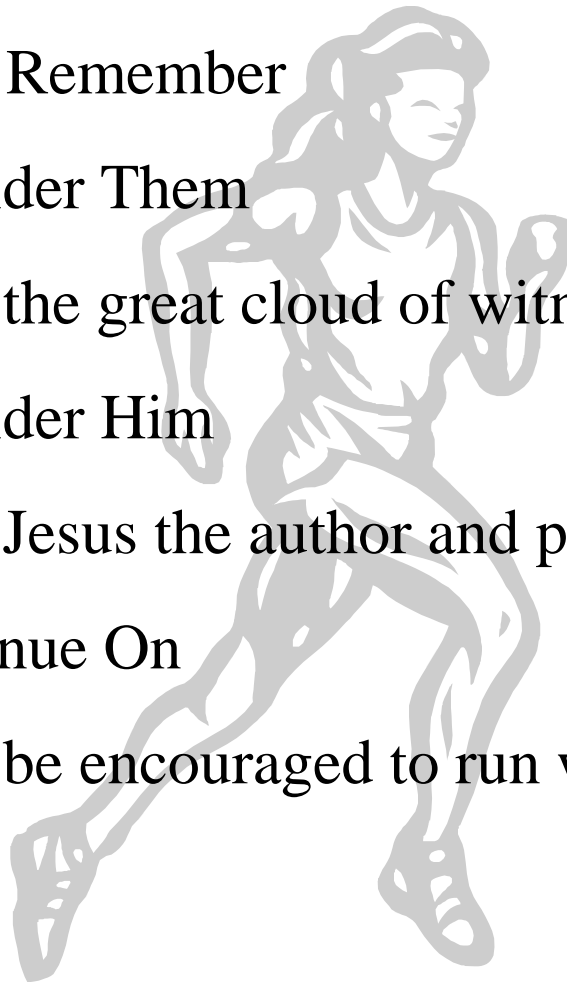
- the great cloud of witnesses

2. Consider Him

- Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith

3. Continue On

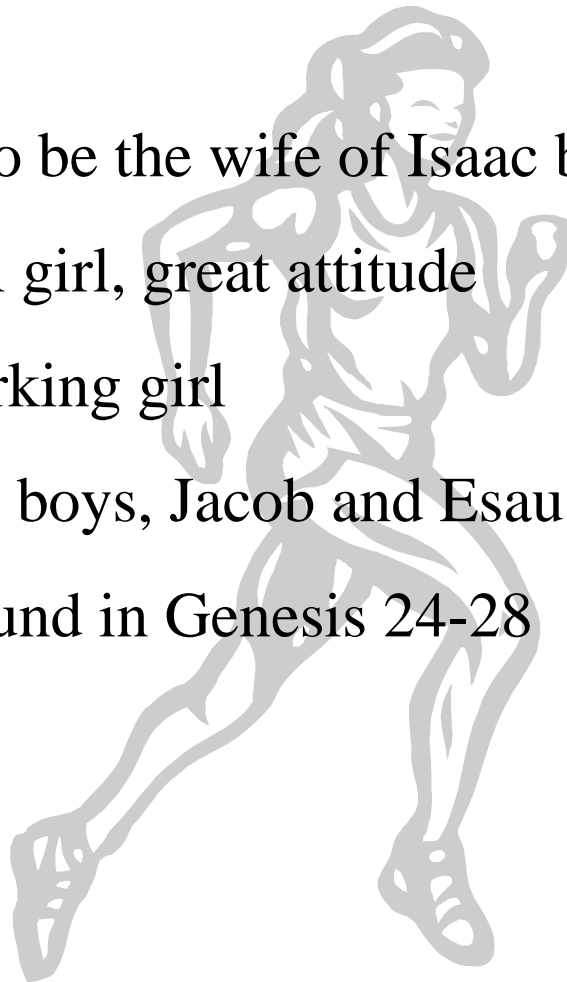
- be encouraged to run with vigor the race



Give and Serve Generously

Rebekah

- chosen to be the wife of Isaac by a servant
- beautiful girl, great attitude
- hard working girl
- had twin boys, Jacob and Esau
- Story found in Genesis 24-28



Give and Serve Generously

24 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years; and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. ² Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his house, who had charge of all that he had, “Put your hand under my thigh ³ and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live, ⁴ but will go to my country and to my kindred and get a wife for my son Isaac.” ⁵ The servant said to him, “Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land; must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?” ⁶ Abraham said to him, “See to it that you do not take my son back there. ⁷ The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me and swore to me, ‘To your offspring I will give this land,’ he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. ⁸ But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there.” ⁹ So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter.

Give and Serve Generously

¹⁰ Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all kinds of choice gifts from his master; and he set out and went to Aram-naharaim, to the city of Nahor. ¹¹ He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water; it was toward evening, the time when women go out to draw water. ¹² And he said, "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. ¹³ I am standing here by the spring of water, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴ Let the girl to whom I shall say, 'Please offer your jar that I may drink,' and who shall say, 'Drink, and I will water your camels'— let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master."

¹⁵ Before he had finished speaking, there was Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, coming out with her water jar on her shoulder. ¹⁶ The girl was very fair to look upon, a virgin, whom no man had known. She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came up. ¹⁷ Then the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me sip a little water from your jar." ¹⁸ "Drink, my lord," she said, and quickly lowered her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. ¹⁹ When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw for your camels also, until they have finished drinking."

Give and Serve Generously

²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels. ²¹ The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether or not the Lord had made his journey successful.

²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold nose-ring weighing a half shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels, ²³ and said, “Tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?” ²⁴ She said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.” ²⁵ She added, “We have plenty of straw and fodder and a place to spend the night.” ²⁶ The man bowed his head and worshiped the Lord ²⁷ and said, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the Lord has led me on the way to the house of my master’s kin.”

²⁸ Then the girl ran and told her mother’s household about these things. ²⁹ Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban; and Laban ran out to the man, to the spring. ³⁰ As soon as he had seen the nose-ring, and the bracelets on his sister’s arms, and when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah, “Thus the man spoke to me,” he went to the man; and there he was, standing by the camels at the spring.

Give and Serve Generously

³¹ He said, “Come in, O blessed of the Lord. Why do you stand outside when I have prepared the house and a place for the camels?” ³² So the man came into the house; and Laban unloaded the camels, and gave him straw and fodder for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. ³³ Then food was set before him to eat; but he said, “I will not eat until I have told my errand.” He said, “Speak on.”

³⁴ So he said, “I am Abraham’s servant. ³⁵ The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶ And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has.

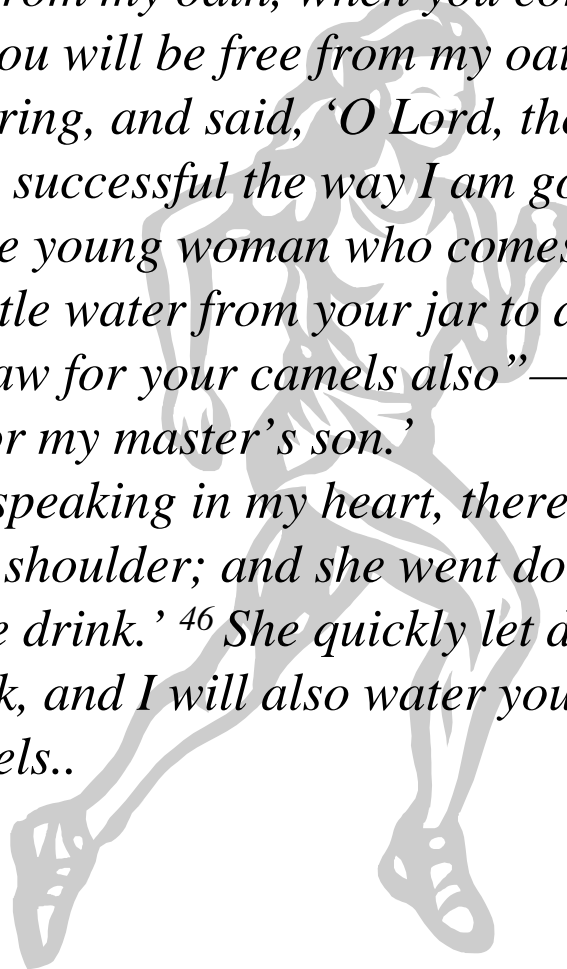
³⁷ My master made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸ but you shall go to my father’s house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.’ ³⁹ I said to my master, ‘Perhaps the woman will not follow me.’ ⁴⁰ But he said to me, ‘The Lord, before whom I walk, will send his angel with you and make your way successful. You shall get a wife for my son from my kindred, from my father’s house.

Give and Serve Generously

. ⁴¹ Then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my kindred; even if they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.'

⁴² "I came today to the spring, and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³ I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴ and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.'

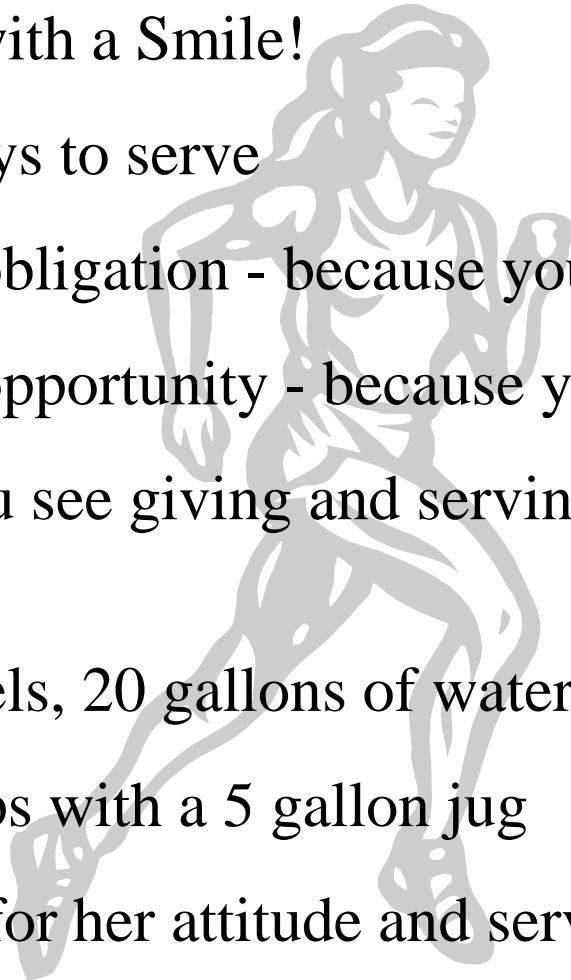
⁴⁵ "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels..



Give and Serve Generously

1. Serve Others with a Smile!

- Two ways to serve
 - obligation - because you HAVE to
 - opportunity - because you GET to
- How you see giving and serving matters to the outcome
- ten camels, 20 gallons of water = 200 gallons
- forty trips with a 5 gallon jug
- noticed for her attitude and service



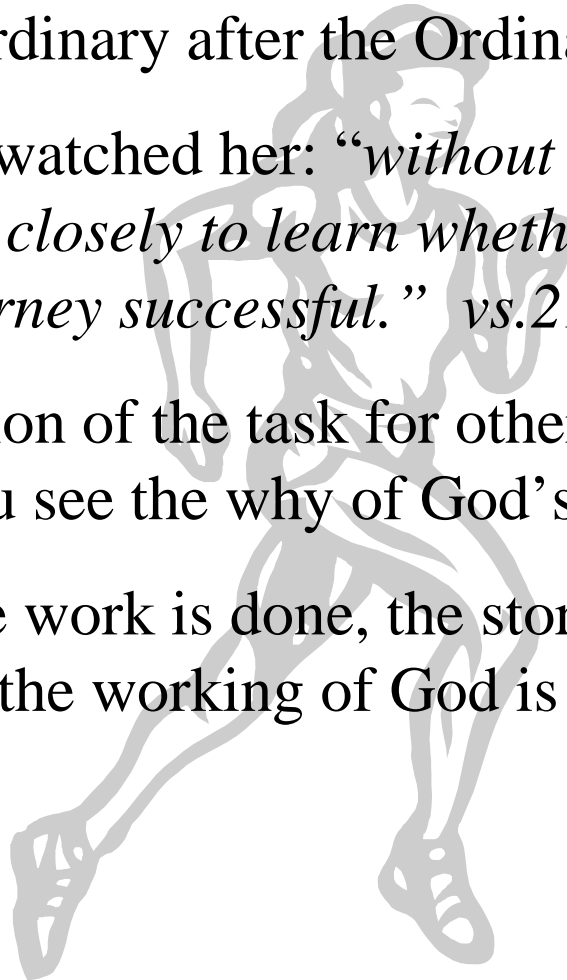
Give and Serve Generously

2. See the Extraordinary after the Ordinary

- Servant watched her: *“without saying a word the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the Lord had made his journey successful.” vs.21*

- completion of the task for others is often necessary before you see the why of God's asking!

- After the work is done, the story is revealed. It is only then the working of God is revealed to Rebekah.



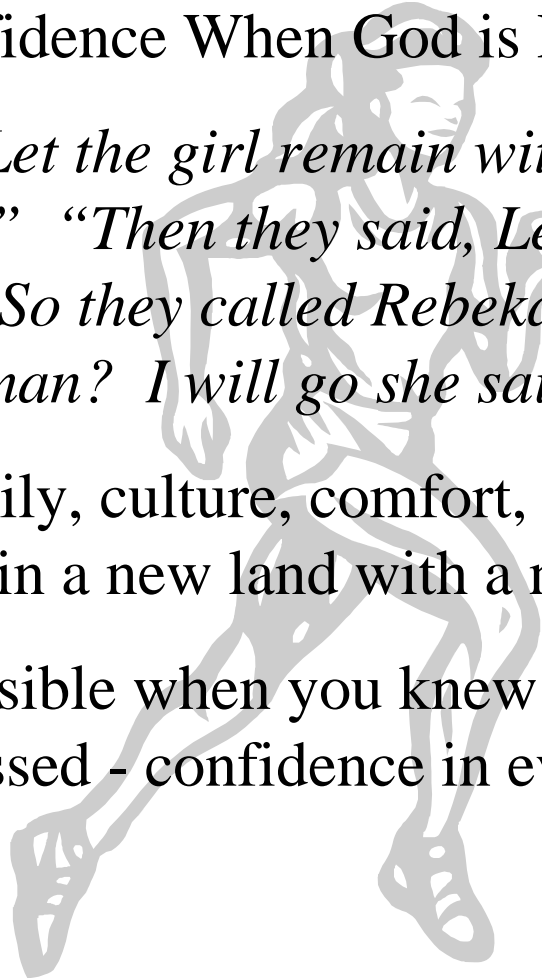
Give and Serve Generously

3. Step with Confidence When God is Revealed!

- vs 55, *“Let the girl remain with us ten days or so, then you may go.” “Then they said, Let’s call the girl and ask her about it. So they called Rebekah and asked her, will you go with this man? I will go she said.”*

- Left family, culture, comfort, friends, for the unknown in a new land with a new husband.

-Only possible when you knew God’s hand in the events passed - confidence in events future



Give and Serve Generously

Here is the gate: remember,

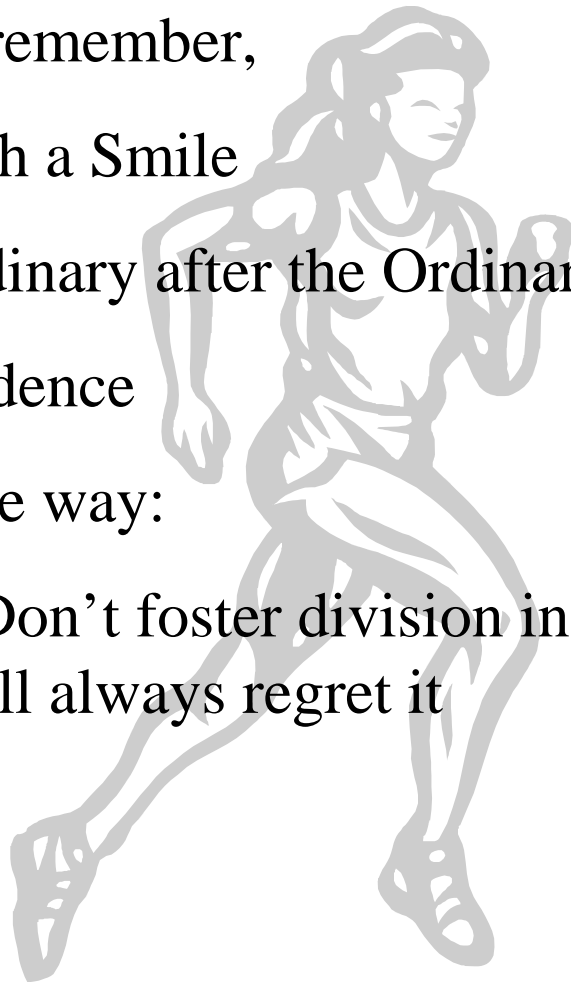
Serve others with a Smile

See the Extraordinary after the Ordinary

Step with Confidence

Oh, by the way:

- Don't foster division in your family, you will always regret it



Give and Serve Generously

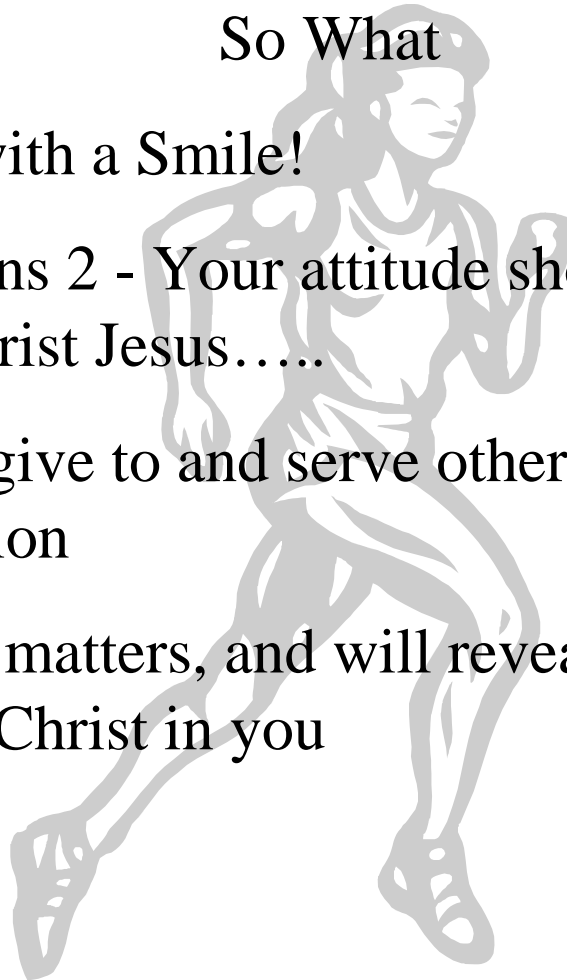
So What

1. Serve Others with a Smile!

-Philippians 2 - Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.....

- Do you give to and serve others out of opportunity or obligation

- Attitude matters, and will reveal to those who are watching Christ in you

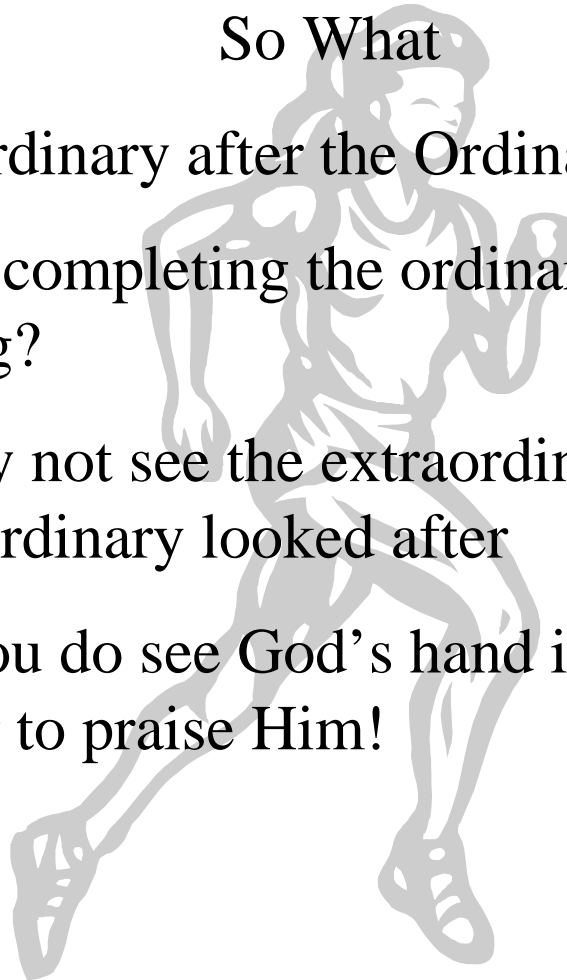


Give and Serve Generously

So What

2. See the Extraordinary after the Ordinary

- Are you completing the ordinary task of serving and giving?
- You may not see the extraordinary hand of God until the ordinary looked after
- When you do see God's hand in the circumstances, remember to praise Him!



Give and Serve Generously

So What

3. Step with Confidence!

- you may be asked to do big scary things
- you may be asked to trust the faithfulness of God
- you need to mark the extraordinary to step in faith
- drive the sign posts that remind you!

