

# Dear Sisters

JESUS + COMMUNITY

Leadership

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LEADERSHIP





# HOW THE EVERYDAY MUNDANE CHANGES THE WORLD

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Photo by Eutah Mizushima

Dear Beautiful Important One:

So much of life seems normal. Mundane. Routine. Boring. Sometimes I wonder where the excitement is. I expected more than I was getting.

Very little excitement sprinkled through my life unless you count me sleeping through my alarm and trying to get ready in two minutes. Which I proved just can't be done. Or our three-ounce green bird was flying through the house, landing here and there because she didn't want to return to her cage. Chasing after her caused my heart rate and irritation to rise, but it didn't count as excitement. Or maybe it is my son not liking any clothes I bought him, except for the shoes. I suppose he could go naked but have warm feet.

Recently there was the heart-stopping news of a new housing development going in just down the road and the neighbors discussing whether this will affect our water pressure.

Yup, my life is normal and mundane. And I am guessing your life is too.

If your life is like mine, there is a lot of regularity and predictability with a few surprises, like your car insurance doubling for the coming year. Your co-worker is getting the promotion instead of you. Or the dog is getting sick in the middle of the living room floor.

Here and there, throw in some tragic news, a family crisis, a health concern, or a death, which is life. At least mine, and maybe even yours.

Years go by, and it seems you are doing nothing much. Unless you count washing dishes and grocery shopping, big things.

One day you figure out how many years you have been changing diapers, and you wonder if your talents have been wasted.

### DO YOU EVER WONDER IF THIS IS IT?

Shouldn't you be doing something big? Something radical? Something more important than refereeing siblings during car trips across town and potty training the puppy and toddler. Or you've had the same job for years, and you wonder if you would even be noticed if you quit or if you would be replaced just like that and forgotten in the first month. You may wonder if your husband would be happier without you or if the children will really rise up and call you blessed.





Doesn't it seem that other people are more important and doing worthier work? More involved in changing the world and coming up with radical ideas that better the world.

You may feel invisible. Insignificant. But that doesn't mean you are. No matter how you feel. You are important and doing important things.

When changing the baby for the twentieth time in one day, you serve the least of these. When you are wiping toddlers' noses and teaching math to a tween, you are imparting knowledge. When helping your teen drive, you are laying your life down for another. When you are counting to ten at the sassy remark of your child and not retaliating in anger, you are dying to yourself. When crawling out of bed to care for a sick child, you are giving up your needs and wants.



Photo by: Andrej Lisakovr



When you read bible stories to kids who seem not to be listening, you are tucking God's word into their hearts. When you greet your husband with a smile after your hard day, especially when you would rather first complain, you put yourself in his shoes.

### DO YOU SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING?

You are changing the world—one small service at a time.

When you smile at your neighbor, listen to a co-worker's troubles, pray with a friend, ask the checkout clerk how her day is going, help the lady at the grocery store parking lot find her car, you are serving, loving, and helping others.

One small act at a time. You are changing the world.

You are modeling a servant's heart when you apologize for losing your temper. When you listen to and respect your mate, you model laying down your life for others. You are modeling sacrifice when you forgo new shoes so your child can instead have a pair. When you work late to help the boss, you are modeling commitment.

When you see others through God's eyes, you are modeling his heart.

You are modeling kindness and empathy when you encourage the waitress after she messes up your order. You are modeling grace when you praise your child more than you criticize. When you realize that the kid at school is a bully because that is all he has known or been shown, you are modeling compassion.

Photo by: Dylan Ferreira



Photo by: Marina Abrosimova



When you forgive your parents, who were far from perfect, you are modeling forgiveness. When you give up your plans to accept new plans, you are modeling dying to self. When you help at the food pantry, you model loving the needy. When you see others through God's eyes, you are modeling His heart. What you do, your children see. Your mate sees. Others around you see. God sees.

You don't need to be known on social media or appear on the news to change the world. You need to be faithful with the small and often taken-for-granted opportunities that present themselves throughout the day. When we give of our time, switch our attention to another, sacrifice our desires, and give up our wants, we do kingdom work. We are changing the course of history. We are loving and serving those around us and becoming like Christ. We are letting the spirit change and mold us into new creatures.

**EVERY DAY WE HAVE MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE AN IMPACT.**

Multiple times per day, we can show God's love to our husbands, kids, co-workers, neighbors, friends, and strangers. To lay down our lives for those we encounter and impact others positively. It is our choice if we will do it.

It is our choice to benefit, bless, help, or serve those around us. Just like we choose if we will criticize, demean, withhold love, or not serve those around us. Yes, the ways we show love to others in our daily life are often small and seemingly unimportant. But all those small ways add up to huge ways. Quit worrying about not doing great big, wonderful things. Keep serving others and dying to self, loving others, and sacrificing for others. Multiple times a day. This will change today and the future, changing you and those around you and affecting eternity.

Each small act changes the world for the better, changes us for the better, and changes those around us for the better.

Sure, you will fail. Just repent, accept God's grace, and keep trying. God wants you to succeed, and He will ensure you succeed.

He does not start a good work and then abandon it. He is rooting for you and helping you, calling you blessed and an overcomer.

Be faithful. Love those around you. Serve them with joy. Cheer them on.

Your seemingly small and insignificant daily offerings will ripple across the pond and become a giant wave of good.

Give your most important commodities. Your time. Your attention. Your love.

Despite what it feels like, you will be impacting the world in big, wonderful ways. Ways you can't even begin to imagine.



**Theresa Boedeker**

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*Theresa Boedeker is a storyteller, humor hunter, and encourager of others. She is passionate about helping women smash lies with God's truth and walk in freedom. She has 2 children and 1 husband and unwraps life at TheresaBoedeker.com where she reminds women what's important about themselves, life, and God's grace.*