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Part Three: Ordinary Wow

Welcome to 40 Days of WOW! For the next two months at TSH, we'll address the root cause of cynicism, which is the belief that nothing will ever really change because people essentially selfish. It's hard not to be a cynic - especially during the Christmas season, when it feels like everything is materialistic: the presents, pictures, parties, and all the pressure!

But Christmas is supposed to be the most WONDERful time of the year, so what happened to the wonder? With this series, we'll reclaim the wonder of the season by reimagining the story of Jesus' birth, reflecting on the power of God's sacrificial love, and counting the blessings we so often take for granted.

Why do you think we struggle to see God's blessings in the ordinary things of everyday life?

Psalm 16:11

*You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

What is the difference between happiness and joy?

Ecclesiastes 3

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:



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Ecclesiastes 3

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.*

What does recognizing the season you're in have to do with finding joy?

Matthew 6:24-32 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.”

What are some of the ways you've failed to recognize God's provision and protection?

How will you choose joy over mere happiness this Christmas?

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