

FAITH AT WORK: HOW TO LIVE OUT *Your Calling in an Ordinary Job*

by Olivia Humphrey

For many Christians, work is treated as a necessary responsibility rather than a God-given opportunity. We assume that impact begins once we leave the office, clock out, or move on to something more “spiritual.” But what if God is already at work in your everyday routines, inviting you into workplace ministry right where you are?

THE DANGEROUS QUESTION THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

I realized something simple and unsettling: the places where I felt most alive—talking with people, listening to their stories, being present—were often the very places we’ve trained ourselves to overlook as “real” ministry.

So, I started asking God a dangerous prayer: *What if my ordinary life is exactly where You want to work? What if that’s what workplace ministry actually looks like?*

CHOOSING ORDINARY ON PURPOSE

For the last couple of years, I’ve worked as a barista while also serving in full-time ministry. I’ve come to believe that workplace ministry often isn’t about adding more spiritual activity to your schedule, but about staying present in the places where relationships already exist.

A coffee shop is a holy place if you have eyes to see it. It’s where college students process heartbreak, where retired veterans warm their hands, where coworkers carry stories no one ever asks about.

MINISTRY THAT DOESN'T END AFTER ONE CONVERSATION

Just recently, I was working a slow shift with a coworker I didn’t know well. Eventually, I asked her a simple question: “Are you a follower of Jesus?”

She said no. Flatly. No hesitation.

So I asked her if she would be open to hearing about Jesus—not as a sermon, not with church language, but as someone who has genuinely had my life changed by Him. She said yes.

I shared it as simply as I could. She didn’t give her life to Jesus that day. And that’s okay.

The pressure to “close the deal” disappears when you realize that sharing Jesus is often slow, relational, and ongoing. This is one of the greatest gifts of living as a Kingdom Laborer in ordinary places: you’re not a drive-by witness. You’re a consistent presence.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'RE REJECTED

Rejection doesn’t disqualify you. It’s important to remember that when you are rejected, you don’t have to defend Jesus. You don’t have to debate. And you don’t have to have all the perfect answers. In fact, one of the most honest and disarming things you can say is, “I don’t know—but I’m willing to wrestle with that.”

Faith isn’t pretending you have everything figured out. Faith is trusting God even when you don’t. And sharing that with seekers is important.

WHEN YOUR WORKPLACE HAS LIMITS

What if the conversation happens after work over a meal? During a lunch break? Before work? The possibilities are endless; it is just time to get creative about your workplace ministry.

Nearly 90% of international students in the U.S. are never invited into an American home. There are students from all over the world who never have an American welcome them in.

Another way to break through barriers is asking good questions and letting curiosity open the door. I’ve watched conversations flip simply because someone felt genuinely seen. When you ask good questions, sometimes people ask those questions back!

THE HIDDEN POWER OF PRAYER

There’s a man who comes into the coffee shop regularly—older, homeless, hardened by life. For months, every attempt I made to talk about Jesus was shut down immediately. So I stopped talking, and I started praying—quietly, consistently. Every time I handed him a cup of coffee, I asked God to soften his heart.

Months later, I looked up from the counter and saw him reading the Bible with a friend of mine. He was suddenly engaged, curious, and open, and it was completely unexpected. God answered a prayer I had been whispering for months, using someone else’s obedience. Prayer forms us long before it produces visible results.

IF YOU'RE NERVOUS, YOU'RE NOT DISQUALIFIED

If the idea of living this way makes you uncomfortable, that is so normal. Jesus never promised comfort. He invited us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. If you are looking to step into Laborership consider bringing a friend or asking for help in prayer. Take small steps. Just don’t wait until you feel ready. Start, go, and trust God to make a path forward.

ORDINARY PLACES BECOME SACRED WHEN
ORDINARY PEOPLE STAY CLOSE TO JESUS.
AND THAT’S WHERE REAL KINGDOM LABORERSHIP BEGINS.



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