

Ordinary People – Extraordinary God

Behind-the-Scenes People

Romans 16:1-16

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant[a] of the church at Cenchreae, 2 that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well. 3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, 4 who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. 5 Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who was the first convert[b] to Christ in Asia. 6 Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you. 7 Greet Andronicus and Junia,[c] my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles,[d] and they were in Christ before me. 8 Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. 9 Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys. 10 Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobulus. 11 Greet my kinsman Herodion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus. 12 Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord. 13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well. 14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers[e] who are with them. 15 Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. 16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

Reflection Questions:

- In what ways does my life demonstrate that I believe that unseen, behind-the-scenes ministry matters to God?
- Who are the “ordinary” people I have overlooked in my life? In the life of the church? How can I honor them?
- How am I participating in God’s work with what I have been given?
- Am I more concerned with recognition or faithfulness to God?
- What small “yes” might God be calling me to give to him this week?

Guided Prayer: Thank God for the quiet, behind-the-scenes people who have shaped your faith and supported your church—name them if you can. Ask the Lord to help you find joy in unseen service, trusting that He notices every act done in love. Confess any discouragement or pride that comes from feeling overlooked—or from wanting recognition more than faithfulness. Pray for a heart that honors others, asking God to help you notice and affirm the service of those around you, just as Paul did. Invite the Holy Spirit to show you where and how He wants you to participate in His work in this season—no matter how ordinary it may seem. In Jesus’ name, Amen.