THE DAILY BREAD

The Mission of the Apostles



Living Sent

Everyday Apostleship in Practice

A FORMATION BOOK BY

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The Everyday Apostle

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INTRODUCTION

From Knowing to Doing

It is one thing to believe that one is sent, to accept that every Christian is called to be a missionary in the ordinary circumstances of his life, and quite another to actually live that way, day after day, in the concrete particulars of a real schedule and a real set of relationships. Many a man has been convinced that he is called to be an everyday apostle and has then returned to his ordinary life with no idea how to actually do it, the conviction sitting in his mind while his days go on exactly as before. The gap between knowing one is sent and actually living sent is wide, and it is the gap this book means to close, with the practical specifics that turn a conviction into a way of life.

This book is for the man who already believes he is sent and now wants to know how, concretely, to live it, who needs not more motivation but practical guidance, the actual habits, approaches, and skills of everyday apostleship. It assumes the conviction and supplies the practice, moving past the why of the sent life to its how, past the inspiring vision to the daily doing. The aim is to put in a man's hands the concrete tools of living sent, so that his ordinary days, his work, his relationships, his neighborhood, his very routines, become the field of a real and practical apostleship, and the conviction that he is sent becomes a life actually lived that way.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. — James 1:22

We will begin by turning conviction into a concrete way of life, with the daily disposition of a man who lives sent. We will see how to actually see and seize the ordinary opportunities that fill a man's days. We will take up the building of the relationships through which apostleship happens, and the practical skill of moving a conversation toward deeper things. We will consider the particular mission fields of a man's life, his work, his neighborhood, his daily encounters, and how to live as an apostle in each. We will address the practical sustaining of a sent life over the long haul. And we will see that everyday apostleship, lived faithfully, gradually transforms a man's whole ordinary existence into a life of mission.

CHAPTER ONE

The Disposition of the Sent

Living With Apostolic Intent

The foundation of everyday apostleship is not a technique but a disposition, a settled inner orientation that a man carries into all his days, the disposition of one who knows himself to be sent and lives with apostolic intent. Before any specific practice, there must be this fundamental orientation, this way of approaching one's whole life as a field of mission, for it is the disposition that turns ordinary activities into apostleship and the lack of it that leaves a man's days merely ordinary. Cultivating the disposition of the sent is the first and most fundamental practice of everyday apostleship.

Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. — 1 Corinthians 10:31

A Standing Readiness

The disposition of the sent is, first of all, a standing readiness, a settled alertness to the apostolic possibilities of one's ordinary life, a readiness to witness, to serve, to speak, to love, whenever the occasion arises. The everyday apostle does not wait for special missionary moments but carries into all his days a readiness for the apostolic opportunities that his ordinary life constantly presents, alert to the openings, prepared to respond, disposed to see his daily encounters as occasions of mission. This readiness is not anxious or forced but a settled orientation, a habitual alertness that has become second nature, so that the man lives his ordinary life with one eye always open to its apostolic possibilities. Cultivating this standing readiness is the beginning of everyday apostleship, for it is the disposition that allows a man to notice and seize the opportunities that the unready walk past, and it transforms his whole approach to his ordinary days from mere living to living sent. A standing readiness, a settled alertness to the apostolic possibilities of ordinary life, is the first element of the disposition of the sent, and the man who cultivates it carries into all his days the readiness that everyday apostleship requires.

Offering the Ordinary

The disposition of the sent also includes the habit of offering one's ordinary activities to God, of doing everything, however mundane, for his glory and as part of one's mission, so that the whole of a man's ordinary life is taken up into his apostleship. The everyday apostle learns to offer his ordinary work, his daily tasks, his routine activities to God, doing them for his glory and as part of his mission, so that nothing in his life falls outside his apostleship but all of it, even the most mundane, becomes part of his service to God. This offering of the ordinary transforms the meaning of a man's daily activities, making them not mere secular tasks but part of his mission, offered to God and done for his glory, so that his whole ordinary life becomes apostolic. Saint Paul's counsel to do everything, even eating and drinking, for the glory of God points to this disposition, this

taking up of the whole of ordinary life into one's service of God. The habit of offering the ordinary, of doing everything for God's glory and as part of one's mission, is a central element of the disposition of the sent, transforming a man's whole ordinary life into apostleship and ensuring that nothing he does falls outside his mission.

Seeing With Apostolic Eyes

Finally, the disposition of the sent involves seeing with apostolic eyes, learning to view one's ordinary life, relationships, and circumstances through the lens of mission, perceiving the apostolic significance of what the unseeing eye regards as merely ordinary. The everyday apostle gradually learns to see his life differently, to perceive the souls in his daily orbit, the opportunities in his ordinary circumstances, the mission in his everyday life, seeing with apostolic eyes what others see as merely mundane. This apostolic vision transforms how a man perceives his whole life, revealing the mission hidden in the ordinary, the souls behind the familiar faces, the opportunities in the routine circumstances, so that his everyday life is seen for the field of mission it actually is. Learning to see with apostolic eyes is a central part of the disposition of the sent, for it is this vision that reveals the apostolic possibilities of ordinary life and allows a man to live sent in circumstances that, to the unseeing, appear merely ordinary. To see with apostolic eyes, to perceive the mission hidden in one's everyday life, is the third element of the disposition of the sent, and the man who cultivates it sees his whole ordinary existence transformed into the field of mission it truly is.

CHAPTER TWO

Seeing and Seizing Openings

The Opportunities Hidden in Your Day

An ordinary day is full of apostolic openings that most men walk straight past, unnoticed and unseized, and a central skill of everyday apostleship is learning to see these openings and to seize them when they come. The opportunities for witness, service, and connection are there, scattered through a man's ordinary day, but they are easily missed by the inattentive and squandered by the unprepared, so that learning to perceive and act on them is essential to living sent. Developing the practical skill of seeing and seizing the openings hidden in one's day turns the disposition of the sent into actual apostolic action.

Making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. — Ephesians 5:16

The Openings Are There

The first thing to recognize is that the apostolic openings are genuinely there, scattered through every ordinary day, in the countless small moments of encounter, conversation, and need that fill a man's hours, waiting to be noticed and used. A typical day presents many openings for apostleship, the colleague who mentions a struggle, the stranger who needs a kindness, the conversation that could go deeper, the moment when a word of faith would fit, the opportunity to serve or to witness, all scattered through the ordinary flow of the day. These openings are real and frequent, though they are easily missed, and the man who learns to recognize that his ordinary days are full of them has taken the first step toward seizing them. Most men walk through their days unaware of the apostolic openings all around them, perceiving only the ordinary surface of their activities and missing the opportunities hidden within them, but the openings are there nonetheless, waiting for the man with eyes to see. The recognition that the apostolic openings are genuinely there, scattered through every ordinary day, is the foundation of the skill of seizing them, for a man cannot seize opportunities he does not believe are present, and the everyday apostle begins by recognizing that his ordinary days are full of openings waiting to be used.

Attention Is the Key

The practical key to seeing the openings is attention, a genuine attentiveness to the people and moments of one's day, for the openings are missed not usually through lack of opportunity but through lack of attention, through a distracted inattentiveness that walks past what a more attentive man would notice. The everyday apostle cultivates attention, a real presence to the people and moments of his day, noticing the person who is struggling, the conversation that is opening, the need that is present, the moment that is ripe, which the distracted man misses entirely. This attention is increasingly rare and increasingly difficult in a distracted age, when men move through their days absorbed in their devices and their preoccupations, present in body but absent in attention, and the recovery of genuine attentiveness to the people and moments of one's day is essential to seeing the apostolic openings. The man who is truly attentive to those around him, really present to the people and moments of his day, sees the openings that the distracted miss, and this attention is the practical key to the whole skill of seeing and seizing opportunities. Attention is the key, and the everyday apostle who cultivates genuine attentiveness to the people and moments of his day sees the apostolic openings that inattention walks past.

Act on the Prompting

Seeing an opening is not enough; a man must act on it, must respond to the prompting to speak, to serve, to reach out, overcoming the hesitation that so often lets the opening pass

unseized. The everyday apostle learns to act on the apostolic promptings he perceives, to actually say the word, offer the help, make the connection, follow the nudge, rather than letting hesitation, fear, or inertia keep him from responding to the opening he has seen. This acting on the prompting is often the hardest part, for a man may see an opening clearly and yet fail to act, held back by self-consciousness, fear of awkwardness, or simple inertia, so that the opening passes unseized despite being seen. Overcoming this hesitation, learning to act on the apostolic promptings one perceives, is essential to seizing the openings, for the opening seen but not acted on is as good as missed. The everyday apostle therefore cultivates not only the attention that sees the openings but the readiness to act on them, to respond to the prompting despite the hesitation, and it is this acting on the prompting that finally seizes the opportunity. Act on the prompting, overcoming the hesitation that lets openings pass, and the openings seen become openings seized, as the everyday apostle responds to the apostolic promptings that fill his ordinary day.

CHAPTER THREE

Building the Bridges

Relationships as the Road of Mission

Everyday apostleship happens overwhelmingly through relationships, through the bonds of genuine friendship and trust that are the road along which faith travels from one person to another, and so a central practice of living sent is the deliberate building of these relational bridges. A man reaches others for Christ not usually through isolated encounters with strangers but through sustained relationships of real friendship, and the building and tending of these relationships is the practical foundation of most everyday apostleship. Understanding how to build the bridges of relationship through which mission actually happens is essential to living sent in practice.

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. — Proverbs 17:17

Friendship First

The foundation of relational apostleship is genuine friendship, real care and connection with people for their own sake, not friendship as a strategy for conversion but friendship as the real thing, within which, in time, faith may be shared. The everyday apostle builds real friendships, caring genuinely about people, investing in relationships of true connection and trust, and it is within these genuine friendships, rather than through strategic encounters, that most of his apostleship happens. This friendship must be real,

not a means to an end, for people can tell the difference between genuine care and strategic befriending, and only real friendship provides the trust within which faith can be shared; the everyday apostle therefore loves people genuinely, as friends rather than as projects, and lets the apostleship flow from the real relationship. Friendship first is the principle of relational apostleship, the building of genuine friendships within which, over time, faith may be shared, and the everyday apostle who masters it invests in real relationships of care and trust, knowing that these are the road along which his apostleship will travel. Friendship first, genuine care for people as friends rather than projects, is the foundation of the relational apostleship through which most everyday mission happens.

Widening the Circle

Beyond deepening existing friendships, the everyday apostle deliberately widens his circle of relationships, reaching out to form new connections, especially with those outside the faith, so that his relational apostleship extends to an ever-widening circle of people he can reach. A man's apostleship is limited by his relationships, for he can reach through friendship only those he actually knows, and so the deliberate widening of his circle, the forming of new relationships especially with those far from the faith, extends the reach of his apostleship. This widening requires intentionality, a deliberate reaching out to form new connections rather than remaining within a closed circle of existing relationships, and it especially requires forming friendships with those outside the faith, who are the primary field of apostleship and whom a man will not reach if his relationships are confined to fellow believers. The everyday apostle therefore deliberately widens his circle, forming new friendships, reaching out to those outside his existing relationships, especially to those far from the faith, so that his relational apostleship extends to an ever-growing circle of people he can reach. Widening the circle, deliberately forming new relationships especially with those outside the faith, extends the reach of a man's relational apostleship and ensures that he does not confine his mission to a closed circle but reaches ever outward to new people.

Tending the Relationships

Relationships, once formed, must be tended, maintained and deepened over time through the ordinary faithfulness of friendship, for the relational bridges of apostleship are built and kept not in a single act but through sustained attention and care. The everyday apostle tends his relationships faithfully, staying in touch, showing up, being a reliable friend over time, deepening the trust and connection on which his apostleship depends, for a relationship neglected weakens and a bridge untended falls into disrepair. This tending is the ordinary work of friendship, the staying in touch, the showing up, the

being there, the sustained investment that keeps a relationship alive and deepens it over time, and it is essential to relational apostleship, for the bridges through which faith travels must be kept strong. The everyday apostle therefore tends his relationships faithfully, investing the ongoing care that friendship requires, keeping his relational bridges strong and deepening them over time, so that they can bear the weight of the apostleship they are meant to carry. Tending the relationships, the sustained faithfulness that keeps friendships alive and deepens them over time, is essential to relational apostleship, for the bridges of relationship must be kept strong to carry the faith they are meant to bear, and the everyday apostle keeps his relationships in good repair through the ordinary faithfulness of friendship.

CHAPTER FOUR

Moving the Conversation Deeper

The Skill of Spiritual Conversation

Within the relationships a man builds, there comes a time to move the conversation toward deeper things, toward the matters of faith and meaning that are the heart of apostleship, and this moving of a conversation deeper is a practical skill that the everyday apostle can learn. Many a man has good relationships but never manages to bring the conversation around to anything that matters, keeping everything on the surface and never reaching the deeper things, and learning how to move a conversation naturally toward faith and meaning is essential to turning relationships into apostleship. Understanding the practical skill of spiritual conversation equips a man to bring his relationships to the deeper level where real apostleship happens.

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. — Colossians 4:6

From Surface to Depth

The skill of spiritual conversation begins with learning to move naturally from the surface topics that fill most conversation to the deeper matters of life, meaning, and faith, finding the natural bridges that lead a conversation from the trivial to the significant. Most conversation stays on the surface, on the weather, the news, the ordinary business of life, and the everyday apostle must learn to move it deeper, to find the natural openings that lead toward the significant, the question that invites real sharing, the topic that opens onto deeper things. This movement must be natural, not forced, growing organically out of the conversation rather than being imposed on it awkwardly, for a clumsy lurch from

the trivial to the religious repels, while a natural deepening draws; the everyday apostle learns to sense the natural bridges, the moments when a conversation can gracefully move deeper, and to use them. The skill of moving from surface to depth, of naturally deepening a conversation toward the significant matters of life and faith, is the foundation of spiritual conversation, and the everyday apostle who masters it can bring his relationships to the deeper level where real apostleship happens. From surface to depth, the natural deepening of conversation toward the significant, is the first element of the skill of spiritual conversation, and the everyday apostle learns to find the natural bridges that lead a conversation gracefully from the trivial to the things that matter.

Questions That Open

A central tool of spiritual conversation is the good question, for questions that invite a person to share their deeper thoughts and longings often open a conversation toward significant things more effectively than any statement. The everyday apostle learns to ask the kind of questions that open people up, that invite them to share their struggles, their longings, their questions about life and meaning, for such questions draw out the deeper things and create the openings for real conversation about what matters. These opening questions are often more effective than statements, for they engage the other person, invite their sharing, and create a conversation rather than a monologue, drawing out the deeper matters that a person may be glad to discuss if given the opening. Learning to ask good questions, questions that invite depth and open a person to share what matters, is a central skill of spiritual conversation, for the question that opens often does more than any assertion to bring a conversation to the deeper level. Questions that open, the good questions that invite a person to share their deeper thoughts and longings, are a central tool of spiritual conversation, and the everyday apostle who learns to ask them finds that they open conversations toward the significant more effectively than statements, drawing out the deeper matters where real apostleship happens.

Sharing Naturally

When the moment comes to share one's own faith, the everyday apostle does so naturally, weaving the faith into conversation as a genuine part of his own life and perspective rather than delivering it as a set piece, so that the sharing is organic and unforced. The faith is shared most effectively not as a prepared presentation dropped into the conversation but as a natural part of who one is, woven into the discussion as one's genuine perspective, shared in the same natural way one shares anything else that matters to oneself. This natural sharing avoids the awkwardness of the forced religious pitch, letting the faith emerge organically as a genuine part of the man's life and thought, so that it fits the conversation rather than interrupting it. The everyday apostle learns to

share his faith naturally, as a genuine part of himself woven into the conversation, speaking of it in the same unforced way he speaks of anything that matters to him, so that the sharing is organic rather than awkward and draws rather than repels. Sharing naturally, weaving the faith into conversation as a genuine part of oneself rather than delivering it as a set piece, is the final element of the skill of spiritual conversation, and the everyday apostle who masters it can bring his faith into his conversations organically and unforced, as the natural overflow of who he is.

CHAPTER FIVE

Your Particular Fields

Apostleship at Work, Home, and Everywhere

Everyday apostleship takes concrete form in the particular fields of a man's life, in his workplace, his neighborhood, his daily encounters, and the various circles he moves in, each of which is a specific mission field with its own opportunities and challenges. The general principles of living sent must be applied to these particular fields, for a man lives sent not in the abstract but in the concrete circumstances of his actual life, and understanding how to be an apostle in each of his particular fields makes everyday apostleship concrete. Considering the specific fields of a man's life and how to live sent in each turns the general vision into particular practice.

As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone. — Galatians 6:10

The Workplace

The workplace is, for most men, the field where they spend the most time and encounter the most people, and it is therefore a primary mission field, where everyday apostleship takes the form of excellent work, genuine care for colleagues, and the witness of a life visibly shaped by faith. In the workplace, a man lives sent primarily through the quality and integrity of his work, through the way he treats his colleagues with genuine care and respect, through the witness of a character evidently formed by something deeper, and through being known, without being pushy, as a man of faith. The workplace apostolate requires particular wisdom, for it is a professional setting with its own proper boundaries, and the everyday apostle witnesses there primarily through his work and his character, with explicit sharing of faith kept appropriate to the setting and flowing from the relationships he builds. The workplace is a primary mission field precisely because a man spends so much of his life there and encounters so many people, and the everyday apostle learns to live sent in it through excellent work, genuine care for colleagues, and

the quiet witness of a faithful life. The workplace, where a man spends most of his time and meets the most people, is a primary field of everyday apostleship, lived through the quality of his work, his care for colleagues, and the witness of his character.

The Neighborhood and Daily Encounters

Beyond the workplace lie the neighborhood and the countless daily encounters that fill a man's life, the neighbors, the people he deals with in the ordinary course of his days, the strangers he meets, all of whom are part of his mission field and occasions of everyday apostleship. The everyday apostle lives sent in his neighborhood by being a genuine neighbor, knowing and caring for those who live around him, offering the kindness and help and friendship that open hearts and build the relationships through which faith travels. And in his countless daily encounters, with the people he deals with in shops and services and the ordinary transactions of life, he lives sent through the simple apostleship of kindness, treating each person with genuine care and respect, offering the small graces that witness to the faith that forms him. These ordinary fields, the neighborhood and the daily encounters, are often overlooked but are genuine occasions of everyday apostleship, opportunities to witness and to love in the ordinary course of life. The neighborhood and the daily encounters are real fields of everyday apostleship, lived through genuine neighborliness and the simple apostleship of kindness in the countless ordinary interactions of a man's days, and the everyday apostle learns to live sent in these ordinary fields as truly as in the workplace.

Every Circle You Move In

Finally, every circle a man moves in, his family and friends, his clubs and associations, his various communities and networks, is a field of everyday apostleship, a set of relationships and opportunities through which he can live sent. A man moves in many circles beyond his work and neighborhood, in his extended family, his friendships, his hobbies and associations, his various communities, and each of these is a mission field, a set of relationships through which he can witness, serve, and share his faith. The everyday apostle learns to see every circle he moves in as a field of mission, to live sent in each of his communities and networks, bringing his apostleship into all the varied circles of his life rather than confining it to one or two. This comprehensive vision, seeing every circle one moves in as a mission field, ensures that a man's apostleship extends to the whole of his life, to all his relationships and communities, rather than being limited to a single sphere. Every circle a man moves in is a field of everyday apostleship, and the everyday apostle lives sent in all of them, bringing his mission into the whole varied network of his relationships and communities, so that no part of his life falls outside his apostleship but all of it becomes a field of living sent.

CHAPTER SIX

Sustaining the Sent Life

Keeping Going Over the Long Haul

Everyday apostleship is not a sprint but a way of life sustained over years, and a man needs to know how to keep going over the long haul, how to sustain the sent life through the discouragements, dry spells, and demands that would otherwise wear it down. Many a man takes up everyday apostleship with enthusiasm and then lets it fade, worn down by apparent fruitlessness, discouragement, or the sheer demands of a sustained apostolic life, and learning to sustain the sent life over time is essential to living sent as a permanent way of life rather than a passing phase. Understanding how to keep going over the long haul ensures that everyday apostleship becomes a lasting way of life.

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. — Galatians 6:9

Rooted in Your Own Spiritual Life

The first requirement for sustaining the sent life is that it be rooted in a man's own vital spiritual life, for apostleship flows from a man's relationship with God and cannot be sustained apart from it, so that the sustaining of everyday apostleship depends on the sustaining of one's own life with God. A man cannot give what he does not have, and an apostleship not rooted in a vital personal relationship with God will run dry, becoming a hollow activity drained of the grace and love that are its source; the everyday apostle must therefore keep his own spiritual life vital, through prayer, the sacraments, and ongoing growth, as the root from which his apostleship flows. This means that the sustaining of everyday apostleship begins not with apostolic activity but with the care of one's own relationship with God, the keeping vital of the spiritual life from which the apostleship draws its life. The man whose own spiritual life is vital has the inner resources to sustain his apostleship over the long haul, while the man who neglects his own life with God finds his apostleship running dry. Rooted in one's own vital spiritual life, everyday apostleship has the source it needs to be sustained, and the everyday apostle keeps his own relationship with God vital as the root from which his lasting apostleship flows.

Not Discouraged by Slow Fruit

The sent life must also be sustained through the discouragement of slow or invisible fruit, for everyday apostleship often shows little visible result, and a man must learn not to be

discouraged by the slowness of the harvest but to keep sowing faithfully regardless. The fruit of everyday apostleship is often slow, hidden, or invisible, for the shaping of lives and the drawing of souls toward God happens gradually and often unseen, so that a man may labor long with little visible result, and this apparent fruitlessness is a chief cause of discouragement and of men giving up. The everyday apostle must therefore learn not to measure his apostleship by visible results, not to be discouraged by slow or hidden fruit, but to keep sowing faithfully, trusting that the fruit is growing unseen and will come in due season if he does not give up. This freedom from discouragement over slow fruit is essential to sustaining the sent life, for the man who needs to see results to keep going will not persevere in an apostleship whose fruit is often invisible. Not discouraged by slow fruit, trusting the hidden harvest and sowing faithfully regardless of visible results, the everyday apostle sustains his apostleship through the apparent fruitlessness that would discourage a man who needed to see results, and keeps going over the long haul in the confidence that his faithful sowing will reap in due season.

The Support of Others

Finally, the sent life is sustained far better in the company of others than in isolation, and a man does well to surround himself with fellow apostles who will encourage, support, and strengthen him in the long work of living sent. The same truth that holds for every difficult and sustained endeavor holds for everyday apostleship: it is sustained better in community than alone, and a man who tries to live sent in isolation, with no fellow believers to encourage and strengthen him, is far more likely to grow weary and give up than one who is supported by a community of fellow apostles. The everyday apostle therefore surrounds himself with others who share the sent life, a community of fellow believers who encourage one another, share their struggles and victories, and strengthen each other for the long work of living sent. This support of others is a vital resource for sustaining the sent life, providing the encouragement, accountability, and strength that help a man keep going over the long haul. The support of others, the company of fellow apostles who encourage and strengthen one another, is essential to sustaining the sent life over the long haul, and the everyday apostle who surrounds himself with such support is far better equipped to persevere in living sent than the man who attempts it alone.

CHAPTER SEVEN

A Life Transformed

When Everyday Apostleship Becomes Who You Are

The final fruit of everyday apostleship, lived faithfully over time, is the transformation of a man's whole ordinary life into a life of mission, so that living sent ceases to be a set of practices he performs and becomes simply who he is. What begins as a deliberate effort gradually becomes second nature, until a man's entire ordinary existence is quietly suffused with mission and he lives sent not by conscious effort but by settled character. Understanding this transformation, the goal toward which everyday apostleship tends, reveals the fullness of what living sent finally becomes.

It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. — Galatians 2:20

From Practice to Nature

Everyday apostleship, practiced faithfully over time, gradually passes from deliberate practice to settled nature, so that what once required conscious effort becomes second nature, and a man lives sent not by constantly reminding himself but by settled character. In the beginning, living sent requires deliberate effort, the conscious cultivation of the disposition, the deliberate seeing and seizing of openings, the intentional building of relationships, but over time these practices become habitual, woven into a man's character, so that he lives sent naturally, without the constant conscious effort that was once required. This passage from practice to nature is the ordinary trajectory of any virtue faithfully practiced, as deliberate acts gradually become settled habits and then second nature, and it holds for everyday apostleship, which becomes, over time, simply part of who a man is. The everyday apostle who perseveres finds that living sent gradually becomes natural to him, no longer a set of practices he must consciously perform but a settled orientation that operates on its own, so that he lives sent as naturally as he breathes. From practice to nature, everyday apostleship passes over time from deliberate effort to settled character, and the man who perseveres finds that living sent becomes simply who he is, operating naturally without the conscious effort it once required.

The Whole of Life Becomes Mission

As everyday apostleship becomes a man's nature, the whole of his ordinary life is transformed into mission, so that there is no longer any part of his existence that falls outside his apostleship but all of it, his work, his relationships, his routines, his very presence, becomes a living out of his sent life. The man in whom everyday apostleship has become second nature lives his whole ordinary life as mission, not in the sense of constantly doing explicitly religious things, but in the sense that his entire existence, infused with the disposition of the sent, has become apostolic, every part of it a living out of his mission. This is the fullness toward which everyday apostleship tends, the

transformation of a man's whole ordinary life into mission, so that the division between his ordinary life and his apostleship disappears and his entire existence becomes a seamless living out of his sent life. The whole of a man's life becomes mission not by his adding religious activities to it but by his whole ordinary existence being transformed, through the settled disposition of the sent, into an apostolic life. When everyday apostleship becomes a man's nature, the whole of his life becomes mission, his entire ordinary existence transformed into a seamless living out of his sent life, with no part of it falling outside his apostleship.

Christ Living in You

The deepest meaning of this transformation is that it is finally Christ living in and through a man, so that the everyday apostle, transformed by a life of living sent, becomes a one through whom Christ himself reaches the world, his ordinary life a channel of Christ's presence. Saint Paul's words capture the goal: it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me, and the everyday apostle, transformed by faithful living sent, increasingly becomes one in whom Christ lives and through whom Christ acts, his ordinary life becoming a means of Christ's presence to the world. This is the deepest truth of everyday apostleship, that it is finally not a man's own achievement but Christ living in him and reaching others through him, so that the transformed everyday apostle becomes a channel of Christ's own presence in the ordinary circumstances of his life. The whole of everyday apostleship tends toward this, toward a man so transformed that Christ lives in him and reaches the world through his ordinary life, and this is the fullness of living sent, Christ himself present and acting through a man's transformed everyday existence. Christ living in you, reaching the world through your transformed ordinary life, is the deepest meaning and final fruit of everyday apostleship, and the man who lives sent faithfully over time becomes, increasingly, one through whom Christ himself is present and active in the ordinary circumstances of the world.

CONCLUSION

Live It, Starting Today

Knowing that one is sent is not enough; one must actually live sent, and this book has been about the how of everyday apostleship, the concrete practices that turn the conviction of being sent into a life actually lived that way. We have seen the disposition of the sent that underlies all the practices; the skill of seeing and seizing the openings hidden in one's day; the building and tending of the relationships through which mission happens; the practical art of moving a conversation deeper; the particular fields of a

man's life and how to live sent in each; the sustaining of the sent life over the long haul; and the transformation by which everyday apostleship becomes simply who a man is.

None of it is beyond an ordinary man in an ordinary life, for everyday apostleship is precisely the living of mission in the ordinary circumstances a man already has, through practices within the reach of anyone willing to take them up. The sent life is not reserved for the specially gifted or the professionally religious but is the ordinary vocation of every Christian, lived out in the concrete particulars of a normal life through the practical means this book has described.

So live it, starting today. Cultivate the disposition of the sent, carrying apostolic intent into all your days; learn to see and seize the openings hidden in your ordinary hours; build and tend the relationships through which your mission will travel; develop the skill of moving your conversations toward deeper things; live sent in all the particular fields of your life, your work, your neighborhood, your every circle; sustain your apostleship over the long haul, rooted in your own life with God and supported by others; and persevere until everyday apostleship becomes simply who you are, your whole ordinary life transformed into mission and Christ himself living and reaching the world through you. You are sent. Now live it, in the ordinary life you already have, starting today.

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