



### Just Beyond the Ordinary

This past Spring, I took my family on a vacation trip to Arizona. This would be the final coinciding Spring break for my two children before my daughter embarks on her college journey. In Phoenix, we took in the desert flora and had a wonderful visit with my niece and her family for a couple of days. Then we drove onto Flagstaff, via Sedona. The red rock formations of Sedona were gorgeous and a dominant presence in the city. We loved it. After spending the night under the wide-open skies of Flagstaff, it was time for the long-awaited journey to the place where millions of visitors flock each year—the Grand Canyon.

Much of the landscape leading up to the canyon is flat and seems unremarkable. It was hard to imagine that the majestic natural wonder we were eager to see was nearby. Even when we were just a few steps away from it, nothing prepared us for the breathtaking view of the canyon that reflects the power and wonder of our Creator. The grandeur and intricacy of the canyon is awe-inspiring. The jagged edges of the canyon's vast rock formations are sharp and dramatic, the palette of color is gorgeous. It did not disappoint; the canyon required responses of humble thanksgiving and praise.

After visiting a few vantage points and snapping many photos, we took the desert drive along the canyon. Once again, we encountered an arid and, what looked like, an unremarkable landscape dotted with occasional clusters of cacti. Every now and then though, if you kept an eye out, the winding of the road revealed more grand views of the canyon.

Magnificence, often unexpected, can be found in the midst of the ordinary. If you do not look closely enough or venture on just a little further, you might miss it. How many times in our lives have we missed what was just in front of us?

Scripture calls us to pay attention, to look at and beyond the everyday ordinary, to discover in new ways the wonder and majesty of God. It requires that we make the journey, that we look for the signs, and pay attention to what may be hidden. As you engage with God in Scripture, my prayer is that you will discover the wonderful treasures given by our King, whose kingdom is here and also just beyond the veil.

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