

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

ENCOUNTERING GOD IN EVERYDAY LIFE

We encounter the Holy God through creation. The grandeur of the mountains, the detail in a blade of grass, the intricacies of physical and personality attributes in each human being. We are surrounded by God's creation. What makes our encounters with everyday creation an encounter with the Holy God? Encounters with the Holy God come when we recognize God's presence in these elements.

Recognizing the holiness of the Almighty God in the creation around us allows us to be encouraged by the goodness and power of God. This gives us a renewed trust in God, knowing that the One who created the oceans, hung the stars, and grew each plant on the earth is the same One who cares for each of us. The Lord can be trusted with the miniscule details just as the Lord is Creator of the grandest elements of nature.

Not all encounters that we have with our environment are beautiful and awe-inspiring. We have allowed destruction and deterioration in our world, and these can manifest themselves in ugly ways. But it is in these experiences that we ask God to be present in the difficult places, in the mundane daily routines, in the everyday situations where our patience is tested. We invite the Lord to transform us so that we can be a witness of our good Creator when we encounter others along the way.

When a task seems daunting, when stretching beyond comfort is taking place in our lives, when pain enters, recall the Lord's faithfulness -- in the Scriptures, in your life, in the lives of others. Remember the stories, and say a prayer for the presence of God to be real to you today. And then encourage someone else by reminding them that our Creator is holy and good.