

Podcast Episode 003 Transcript - You Don't Have to Go Quickly to Do Greatly

INTRO

Hi, there. My name is Madison Aichele, and I'm a writer with a passion for sharing honest and encouraging reflections about God's character. This podcast is for the woman courageously choosing faith and heart in a world driven by sight and success. The woman who wants to live with an awareness of God's kind and steady hand moving through what seems ordinary, making it extraordinary. The woman who wants to experience the unhurried peace of trusting God's plan, abandoning the race toward the "next big thing" and, instead, choosing to settle into the God thing. Get cozy if you can, lay your burdens down even if it's just for a moment.

Welcome to Faith and Heart.

MAIN

Friend, I've always been described as slow. I'm the last one working on their food at the dinner table and the last one out of the car. I've always moved at a slower pace, taking my time with tasks, and letting thoughts and ideas marinate. Somewhere along the way, I started to feel like that was a weakness. I don't know when exactly that belief took root but I found something from my past that made me realize the seed must've been planted early. It was a report card from the fourth grade, and on it, my teacher wrote, "Madison is a great girl and a hard worker. I hope that she can work a little more quickly without giving up accuracy."

The world can feel overwhelming, there's so much pressure to pick up our pace and move to a beat that doesn't feel like our own. But if we don't rush ahead, we're told we'll be left behind. I think that's a message we always hear, whether it's written on our report cards or implied through popularized media. Speed up. Work quickly. But don't lose accuracy. That's not a sustainable way to live or even an achievable standard but somehow, we're all tasked with that heavy burden. Thankfully, it's not one we have to carry.

The message to slow down and seek Him has been pressed on my heart and mind recently. I've seen it everywhere. In the books I've picked up, captions on Instagram, in the rain that's beating against my window right at this second. With every drop, it's like hearing His voice say, "Slow down. Seek Me." Where there's repetition, I know I need to pay attention.

So, I started praying. And as words spilled out of my heart, His Spirit met me with a beautiful reminder. Slowing down feels so contrary to what we're told to do. My fourth-grade teacher is

proof. We think gaining momentum means doing more and doing it faster. If we don't gain that highly-prized traction, we'll never make progress. But His kind response to my heart's search for answers washed over me like the rain swept over my window.

"Momentum can only be sustained by slowing down." It's a paradox filled with grace and mercy. We see slow as the enemy of growth. It goes against everything we would naturally choose as a path toward achievement, which is why I think slowing down is one of the purest forms of worship and faith. It's a choice that says, "I trust you, Father."

If we didn't need to slow down, we wouldn't need God. Our capacity could fill His divine role. But my weary-prone bones need His almighty presence. So, the pressure is off, friend. We don't need to hurry. Or push. Or strive. We can slow down, seek Him, and know that He's still moving on our behalf.

We can be the last ones at the dinner table. The last ones out of the car. The last ones thinking through what to say or do. It doesn't mean we're behind. Or that we're on the wrong path. Maybe, just maybe, it's our slow path with God that builds more momentum than swift effort ever could.

READING

Before I go, I wanted to read a passage that stood out to me as this invitation to slow down has floated down from heaven through every means possible. It's from the book *Walking on Water* by Madeleine L'Engle, who has quickly become a favorite author of mine. I've read this book once before, ironically very quickly because I loved it so much. The opportunity to read through it for the second time with a group presented itself, and it felt important to say yes. I'm glad I did, so I could hear the invitation to slow down more clearly. This passage is from the first chapter and reads:

"The first poster was given me on my second stop, the Covenant of the Transfiguration near Cincinnati, where I was conducting a retreat. The poster tells me: *Listen to the silence. Stay open to the voice of the Spirit.*

The second poster came a month later when I was out of the cast but still on crutches, sent me by Luci Shaw, who is largely responsible for my struggling to write this book. It shows a covered bridge in the autumn, very much like the covered bridge we drive through en route to Crosswicks, and it echoes my need: *Slow me down, Lord.*

Good messages. When I am constantly running there is no time for being. When there is no time for being there is no time for listening. I will never understand the silent dying of the green pie-apple tree if I do not slow down and listen to what the Spirit is telling me, telling me of the

death of trees, the death of planets, of people, and what all these deaths mean in the light of love of the Creator, who brought them all into being, who brought me into being, and you.” I don’t know where this episode is meeting you, but maybe this is an invitation you needed, too. A reminder that you don’t have to go quickly to do greatly. Trust His timing. He’s still moving.

OUTRO

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Thank you so much for listening! I’ll talk to you soon.