

THE PACE OF THE KINGDOM:

The Speed of Love

ME + YOU

JULY 2024

May this week-long devotional help you to slow down, to love deeply, and to live fully in the presence of God.

Resources:

THE PACE OF THE KINGDOM: The Speed of Love sermon by Marilyn Read
church.tech

day one

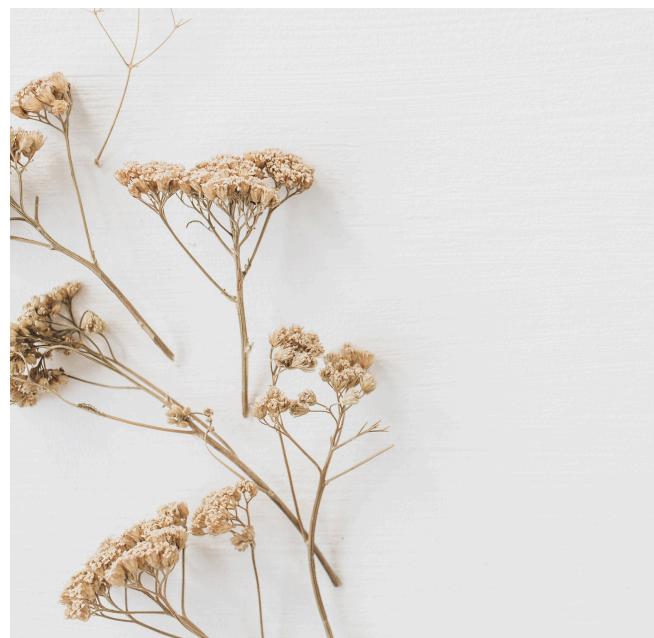
The invitation to draw near

Scripture: "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you ..." (James 4:8 NKJV)

Reflection: The sermon begins with an invitation to draw near to God, to put our heads on His chest, and to say yes to His invitation. This is a call to intimacy with God, to experience His love and presence in a profound way.

Action: Spend 10 minutes in quiet prayer, simply resting in God's presence. Listen for His voice and feel His love.

Prayer:



day two

The speed of love



Scripture: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud." (1 Corinthians 13:4 NIV)

Reflection: Today, reflect on the concept that love has a speed. It is not hurried or rushed but moves at a pace that allows for deep connection and understanding. Consider how Jesus walked slowly enough to engage with those around Him, showing love and compassion.

Action: Take a deliberate pause today. Whether it's during a meal, a conversation, or a task, slow down and be fully present.

Prayer:

"God walks 'slowly' because He is love.

If He is not love

He would have gone much faster.

Love has its speed.

It is an inner speed.

It is a spiritual speed.

It is a different kind of speed from the
technological speed

to which we are accustomed.

It is 'slow'

yet it is lord over all other speeds

since it is the speed of love."

Kosuke Koyama

From the book

Three Mile an Hour God



day three

Loving your neighbour

Scripture:

"He answered, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" (Luke 10:27 NIV)

Reflection:

Jesus teaches us to love our neighbours, even those who are difficult to love. The story of the Good Samaritan reminds us that our neighbour is anyone in need, regardless of race, politics, class, or religion.

Action:

Identify someone in your life who is difficult to love. Pray for them and look for a practical way to show them love today.

Prayer:

“We instinctively tend to limit
for whom we exert ourselves.

We do it for people like us,
and for people whom we like.

Jesus will have none of that.

By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew,
Jesus could not have found a more forceful
way to say that anyone at all in need -

regardless of race, politics, class,
and religion - is your neighbour. Not everyone
is your brother or sister in faith,
but everyone is your neighbour,
and you must love your neighbour.”

Timothy Keller

From the book

Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just

day four

Making space for margin

Scripture: “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake.” (Psalms 23:1-3 NKJV)

Reflection: Margin is the space between our load and our limit. It allows us to respond to God's interruptions and to live a life that is not overwhelmed by busyness.

Action: Look at your schedule and identify one activity you can remove or reduce to create more margin in your life.

Prayer:





day five

Keeping the main things the main things

Scripture: But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33 NKJV)

Reflection: Identify your big rocks - the most important things in your life. Prioritize them and let everything else fit around them.

Action: Write down your big rocks. Make a plan to prioritize them in your daily life.

Prayer:

day six

Learning to say no

Scripture: "But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."

(Matthew 5:37 NKJV)

Reflection: Saying no is essential to maintaining balance and avoiding burnout. It allows us to focus on what God has called us to do and to serve with a cheerful heart.

Action: Practice setting boundaries and saying no to less important tasks.



Prayer:

day seven

Hearing God's voice

Scripture: "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10:27 NKJV)

Reflection: Listening to God's voice is essential for walking at the speed of love. It requires us to be still and to be open to His interruptions.

Action: Spend time in prayer, reading the Bible and ask God to speak to you. Be open to His guidance and be willing to follow His lead, even if it means changing your plans.

Prayer:

