

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR *Real Life*

114. The Heart Behind Right Now Matters

You are listening to episode 114 of the Encouragement for Real Life Podcast titled, *The Heart Behind Right Now Matters*. Welcome to the podcast! I'm so glad you're here and tuning in today! You may or may not know I have written a book. The exciting thing is, it releases one week from today. In this episode I'm opening up a little more about this book, how it came to be, and why I believe it's needed in the culture of distraction we live in. My prayer is as I share the heart behind *Right Now Matters* today, you'll find hope, encouragement, and some behind-the-scenes moments today, so I invite you to hang with me here for this next short while. So, let's get into this episode.

One week from today, *Right Now Matters: Empowering Right Now Women in a Culture of Distraction* releases into the world. Let me tell you, friend, I'm feeling all the feels today... nervousness, excitement, hope, joy, and even a little apprehension. I've been sharing my words in the online world for many years, but for some reason, them being in a book feels so much bigger and different to me.

But why me?

It's hard for me to believe, quite honestly, that God would use someone like me to deliver this message of hope through *Right Now Matters*. But I guess, as I think about it today, He's always used people like me to do His work. Imperfect, unqualified, once-lost-but-now-found, stretched-beyond-what's-comfortable, who-don't-have-it-all-together kind of people. But still, I don't feel qualified even though He's taught me tough lessons and led me through some difficult distraction-filled years. I guess the saying goes, "He doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called. He's so faithful, isn't He?"

Now I'm not saying this to put myself down. That's not it. What I'm saying is I'm just an ordinary small-town Iowa girl, who loves Jesus and desires to serve Him in any way He calls me to. I don't do it perfectly, and I probably never will. God expects obedience from us, not perfection though, right? I also don't have a master's degree in communication or journalism, yet He continues to call me to write and speak for Him. I live a simple, what I call "rural road life," and I mess up and make more mistakes that I care to admit.

God uses people like Moses who couldn't speak fluently, like David who sinned greatly, like Esther who was an ordinary woman, like Paul who killed Christians, like Mary who was an unwed virgin. Even people like me.

But here we are.

May this encourage you and remind you right out of the gate with the truth of how God uses ordinary people like me and you to do things we never thought we could do... for our growth, for the good of others, and for His glory. God has good plans for your life, friend, and He wants to use you in powerful and magnificent ways. What is God calling you to do today, friend, and how open is your heart to His calling?

This reminds me of 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. The Voice translation says it this way, "Look carefully at your call, brothers and sisters. By human standards, not many of you are deemed to be wise. Not many are considered powerful. Not many of you come from royalty, right? But *celebrate this*: God selected the world's foolish to bring shame upon *those who think they are wise*; likewise, He selected the world's weak to bring disgrace upon *those who think they are strong*. God selected the common and the castoff, whatever lacks status, so He could invalidate the claims of those who think those things are significant. So it makes no sense for any person to boast in God's presence."

So, how did *Right Now Matters* come to be?

The full title is *Right Now Matters: Empowering Right-Now Women in a Culture of Distraction*. It was once called *Today is For Living*. Then it was called *Staying Present*. But God changed it in April to *Right Now Matters*. That's so much better, isn't it? (He knows what He's doing!)

This book is the book I wish I had a number of years ago when I was searching for help in how to live an undistracted life. I had one life-altering moment that I share in the Introduction that woke me up to the reality I was living. After that I began my adventure with God to learn how to live undistracted, because I was missing out on so much of life happening right in front of me. I know I'm not the only one. After reading *Right Now Matters*, one of our launch team members said it best. "If I would have read this book years ago, I believe that my life would have looked a bit different than it was."

I completely agree with her. But I fully believe God gives us what we need, when we need it. And we go through certain circumstances and situations for reasons we may never fully understand this side of eternity. But God uses it all, and I believe He brings good from it all. Even when and if we may not see it fully. I wish I could describe for you the distracted life I was living back then. But maybe you kinda know, because maybe you're living a similar one now. I hope not, but if that's the case, you have hope!

This is the basis of *Right Now Matters*. But not just that. It's founded on the reality of what can happen when we partner with God in our quest to not only live an undistracted life but to also live the abundant life Jesus came to give us. Living distracted is not a part of that abundant life.

For years I tried to figure out how to live in the moment.

Through numerous attempts and failures, I came up with a toolbox of sorts that I used to keep me present and help me overcome the distractions that plagued me daily. God helped me trade the life of discontent and discouragement because of distracted living for a life of hope and joy. And if He did this for me, He can do this for you. That's why *Right Now Matters* exists.

And because God prompted me to write this book.

He knew other women needed help with living in this culture of distraction too. He knew I was at a place in my life where I could begin to share how and what He taught me. So with a heart full of hope, last fall I pitched this book idea with a full book proposal to a number of literary agents and acquisition editors. I was so excited, until I kept getting the same response, "Your platform isn't big enough." And I knew it wasn't. But I was hoping just one person would take a chance on me and my God. But one person told me I needed 50,000 followers before she would look at my proposal. After receiving "no" after "no" after "no," I guess I kinda gave up. I figured I must have heard God wrong.

But when January rolled around, and God directed me to my word for the year--uncomfortable--something clicked in my brain. This was going to be the year I would do all the uncomfortable things I knew I needed to do but didn't want to because, well, I was comfortable. I knew God was leading me to pick the book back up, finish it, and self-publish it. The thought kept coming to me, "My platform isn't too small for God." So I stepped out in faith, one step at a time, and let me tell you, friend, I was so very uncomfortable. I still am! Goodness, I've been uncomfortable for ten months! But God kept guiding me, and walking with me through every word, every sentence, every chapter. He continued to lead me in finding the resources I needed and the people that would be willing to come alongside me and help me.

God has led me every step of the way on this journey.

From the beta readers who were the first to see *Right Now Matters*, to the words inside, to the cover, to the marketing pieces, to the edits, to the launch team members, every little or big thing. God has guided me. My prayer every day was, "God, please show me what needs to be added, deleted, altered, or changed." And He did.

I clung to this Psalm. It's in chapter 32, verse 8 in the NLT. "The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." Aren't you so thankful we don't have to figure out this life or anything in it alone?

And here we are, ten months later from His prompting. *Right Now Matters* will go out into the world in a week, and I pray He uses the words He gave me to help women like me and you live more joy-filled and abundant lives. Not just for themselves, but for the blessing of others and for the honor of serving God. Distractions are not His best for us, but a life of joy and peace is.

The heart of Right Now Matters is this: to help women like me and you to live the abundant lives Jesus came to give us.

Undistracted. Unapologetically. And yes, even uncomfortable.

I pray God uses this book to help women everywhere transform their daily discontent into a life of purpose and peace.

Right Now Matters is full of my personal stories, biblical hope and truth, and practical tips to help you live an undistracted life. You'll learn how to overcome your daily distractions to immerse yourself in God's gift of the present moment. You'll also understand what it means to embrace life as what I call a Right-Now Woman. I can't wait for you to watch as your life transforms into one of abundance and peace.

If you're interested in checking it out, you can find more at rightnowmatters.com. The link is in the show notes, and you'll be able to find it on Amazon, and Barnes and Noble.

In closing, I'm grateful God chose this unqualified, small-town Iowa girl to share my story and His Words to help women like me and you live the lives He desires us to live. I'll ask this again. What is God calling you to do today? How is He using what you've walked through for good? How open is your heart to His calling? Thanks for being here today. I am blessed because of you. God bless you!

Links in this episode:

[1 Corinthians 1:26-29](#)

[Psalm 32:8](#)

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