

RESILIENT FAITH IN A TURBULENT WORLD



Lingering with God

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SPEED. I AM SPEED.



“A world that automatically presumes the goodness of doing things quickly tends to create people who want *everything* to go faster. Slowness is perceived as a disease, a problem, an issue to be fixed.”

(from *Slow Theology*)

Genesis 1:31-2:2

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

"Though he could have created everything in a single moment, God chose not to... Rather, there is a whole week of ongoing creation. Over seven days, God designs the splendor of all that we can see in this glorious creation. God is powerful, but apparently he is slow in his execution of that power...

God had the unique power to finish everything instantaneously. But, oddly, he did not rush his work... God, in his wisdom and power, takes his sweet little time."

(from *Slow Theology*)

Genesis 1:16

God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.

Modern astronomers estimate that two hundred billion trillion stars exist in the known universe.



Exodus 34:6-7

⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,
⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.

"Outrage culture is based on a form of political communication that glosses over the messy nuances of complex political issues and instead focuses on melodrama, mockery and forecasts of impending doom...

This unique brand of incivility has become the mainstay of an entire genre of political opinion media that is not really about dialogue or information, but instead takes the form of a verbal jousting match, with the victor of the day being the team that most effectively paints the other side as dangerous, misguided or inept."

(Sarah Sobieraj)

John 4:4-7

⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"

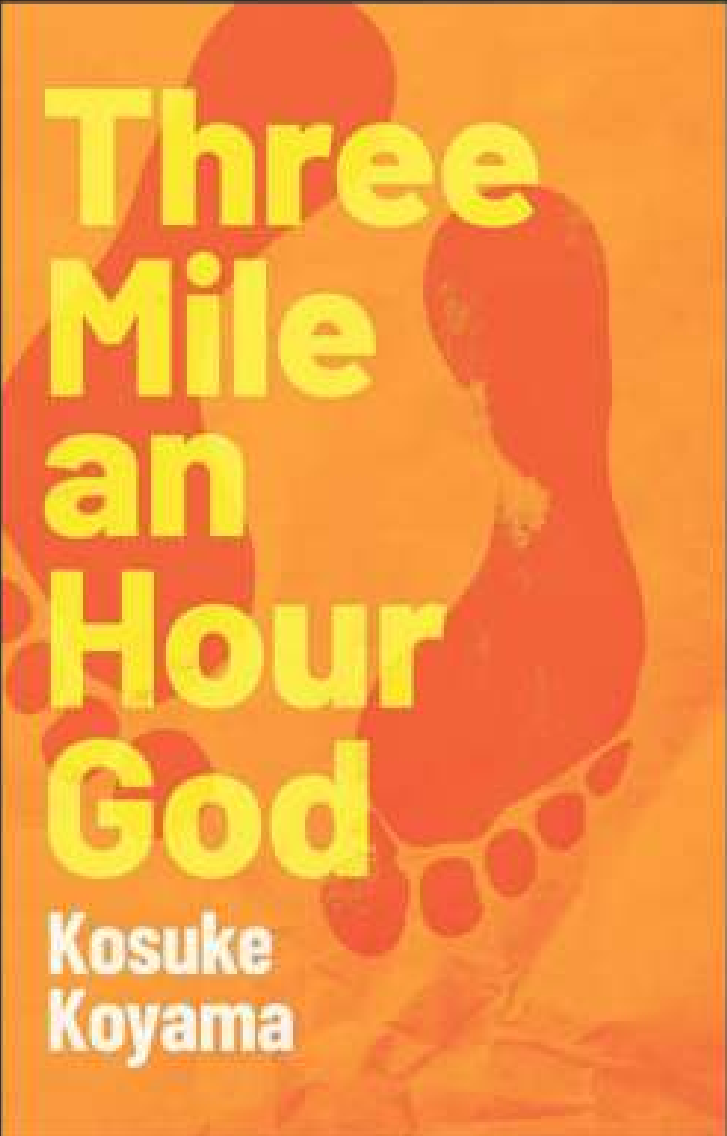
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"This entire story could happen only because Jesus stops and takes a break to rest... to sit and do nothing. We can learn to work and minister as Jesus did, from a place of rest. It is certainly difficult to love people when you have no time to do so."

(from *Slow Theology*)

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Three Mile an Hour God

Kosuke
Koyama

"The incarnation is God walking around for thirty-three years at a very slow and rhythmmed pace. God, in the incarnation of Jesus, saves the world by embracing the slow life."

(from *Slow Theology*)

Matthew 13:3-9

³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.

Matthew 13:3-9

⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

The Parable of the Sower



The Parable of the Seeds and Soils



The third “unreceptive” soil is the “rocky” soil.



“This parable is about the virtue of being slow. Be the good soil. Plan. Cultivate. Enrich. Fertilize. Know where the sun is. Know where the shade is. Add water. Pull weeds. Remove big stones. Take your time. The goal in the end is the best and most healthy fruit, not cheap and quick nourishment.”

(from Slow Theology)

“We should slow down not just when life is really good but all the time, because life itself is a gift, and every moment holds potential for wonder if we become attentive to the richness of the world around us that we tend to miss when we are in a hurry.”

(from *Slow Theology*)

"The whole of life is a sacrament... That the daily bread of human existence—with all its hope and joy, its agony and failure—is broken to men not by blind fate, but by God's eternal wisdom and eternal love, this is the underlying faith that saves us from madness."

(May Kendall)

Closing Reflections

Offer a prayer of gratitude to God for his willingness to move slowly, for the sake of his creation and his image bearers.

Closing Reflections

Invite the Spirit to reveal an area where you need to grow in slowness: resisting the cultural default of speed in all things, becoming angry more slowly, a willingness to rest in order to love well, or something else.

Closing Reflections

When you think of the slow seed in the good soil, does that remind you of yourself? Or, can you better identify with one of the other examples from the parable?

Closing Reflections

Ask God to open your eyes to just one moment this week that holds the potential for wonder, if only you would stop and linger in it.

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