

PAUSE WITH JESUS

*Encountering His Story
in Everyday Life*

CHRIS MAXWELL

*Sometimes we're so busy serving Jesus that we fail to enjoy him. Or so preoccupied with the ministry of the Word, that we forget to commune with the Word made Flesh. **Pause with Jesus** rescues us from this cruel irony. With sparse, elegant prose, Chris Maxwell gives fresh glimpses of our Lord from the pages of Scripture. Maxwell's insights and images will encourage you to slow down and enjoy Jesus again—and then serve him out of love and wonder, not duty and shame.*

— DREW DYCK

MANAGING EDITOR OF *Leadership Journal*

AUTHOR OF *Yawning at Tigers*

***Pause with Jesus** is an excellent addition to Chris Maxwell's series of "Pause" books. Thirty bite-sized chapters of just a few pages each invite readers to pause and meet Jesus—in poetry and prose, in Scripture, with questions, personal reflection, and practical responses. This is a great resource for individuals and groups to explore and deepen their relationship with Jesus. Thank you, Chris, for your words of blessing, encouragement, and inspiration.*

— APRIL YAMASAKI

LEAD PASTOR, EMMANUEL MENNONITE CHURCH, ABBOTSFORD,
BC, CANADA

AUTHOR OF *Sacred Pauses: Spiritual Practices for Personal Renewal*

Chris Maxell is a storyteller with the eyes of a poet and a pastor with the heart of a mystic. In this fourth installment of the "Pause" series, Chris chooses 30 scenes from the life of Christ and then invites you to hit pause and step into each story. Then he invites you to take the time to read, reflect, receive and respond, before you step back with Jesus into your life.

— GARY W. MOON, MDiv, PhD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARTIN INSTITUTE AND DALLAS WILLARD
CENTER, WESTMONT COLLEGE,

AUTHOR OF *Apprenticeship with Jesus*

My friend Chris Maxwell always has a word in season. Every time Chris encourages me or prays with me, he seeks to bring the presence of Jesus into the storm I'm facing. This book will do the same for you. It will teach you to pause, breathe, let go of your fears, step out of your boat and grab hold of the Savior.

— J. LEE GRADY
FORMER EDITOR, *Charisma Magazine*
DIRECTOR, THE MORDECAI PROJECT

*Is it just me, or does Chris Maxwell get better with each paragraph he pens? Chris Maxwell's **Pause with Jesus** invites us to enter the narrative of the Gospels, place ourselves in the story, and experience the presence of Christ as never before. I found myself looking through the window into each scene one minute and beholding myself in a mirror the next. **Pause with Jesus** provides thirty robust opportunities to meet Jesus at the intersection of life and truth. Read it. Share it. Talk about it. Savor it. But don't get in a hurry.*

— C. TRACY REYNOLDS, DOCTOR OF STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP
DEAN, SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES
EMMANUEL COLLEGE

*How one could accomplish to tell the greatest story ever told in a fresh, new, and powerful way is beyond me. Yet, my dear friend, Chris Maxwell, has done just that. A true Ambassador for the kingdom of God and a representation of Christ's love demonstrated on earth, Chris has penned a tapestry of stories that reveal truth, inspire reflection, invite connection, and honor Christ's supremacy, deity, and humanity. **Pause with Jesus** displays the truth of a loving God who welcomes us from all walks of life to come into His presence and truly connect with their Savior, Redeemer, and Friend. I hope that everyone who reads this book accepts this heartfelt invitation to pause with Jesus. I am so glad I did.*

— CHEMELLE EVANS
VICE PRESIDENT, SNOW COMPANIES

***Pause with Jesus** is more than just a book. It's a journey. Through his words, Chris is inviting us to slow down and listen for Christ's unmistakable voice, feel the gentle strength of His embrace, and see the timeless beauty of His work. The more you read the clearer you will see Jesus gazing back at you.*

— MAX BARROSO

DIRECTOR OF THE AWAKENING (IPHC MINISTRIES)

In an era when Jesus is being used, and abused, by so many to justify their own actions and attitudes, it is refreshing to read about Jesus in a way that leads us back to His words, His life, His call. Chris Maxwell, in this edition of his ongoing collection of writings under the phrase "Pause," has led us, like Mary in Luke 10:39, to the feet of Jesus.

— DR. A. D. BEACHAM

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, INTERNATIONAL PENTECOSTAL
HOLINESS CHURCH

*Reading through **Pause with Jesus**, I'm impressed ... again. To say Chris Maxwell has a way with words is, well, an understatement. Words stimulate. Words motivate. Words hit home and make us think. Words encourage and comfort. And the words in **Pause with Jesus** do all this and more. This is another masterpiece in the "Pause" series. Thanks, Chris.*

— RON WHITE, EdD

PRESIDENT, EMMANUEL COLLEGE

*The message in **Pause with Jesus** is the answer to every need, every care, every longing in our life. Thank you Chris Maxwell for "pausing" long enough to hear from God and write this treasure.*

— REBECCA KEENER

PASTOR OF MARRIAGE MINISTRY, FREE CHAPEL
CO-HOST, "THE CHRISTIAN VIEW"

*An invitation, **Pause with Jesus** is a doorway to enter into a time of fresh reflection of our Savior. Chris Maxwell has a gift for taking his readers on a journey of discovery and rediscovery. Thank you, Chris, for the invitation and the journey!*

— GREG AMOS

BISHOP, SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE, IPHC

Chris has the heart of a pastor and the spirit of Christ. It makes a powerful combination in his latest “Pause” book.

— JAMES N. WATKINS

AUTHOR, SPEAKER

SAMPLE

PAUSE WITH JESUS

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CHRIS MAXWELL



True Potential
REACH THE WORLD

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Encountering His Story in Everyday Life

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Other Books by Chris Maxwell

Beggars Can Be Chosen: An Inspirational Journey Through the Invitations of Jesus

Changing My Mind: A Journey of Disability and Joy

Unwrapping His Presence: What We Really Need for Christmas

Pause: The Secret to a Better Life, One Word at a Time

Pause for Moms: Finding Rest in a Too Busy World

Pause for Pastors: Finding Still Waters in the Storm of Ministry

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Thanks to So Many

Thank you. To so many people, I say thank you. For loving me, forgiving me, accepting me, believing in me, thank you.

To Debbie, Taylor, Aaron, and Graham, thank you. To daughters in law, grandchildren, parents, sisters, relatives, all family members and close friends, thank you.

To coworkers, doctors, authors, song writers, servant leaders, coaches, artists, accountability partners, mentors, professors, counselors, pastors, parishioners, students, strangers, and so many who've helped me learn to pause with Jesus, thank you.

To people who've opened their eyes to read my words and opened their ears to hear my stories, thank you.

To Dianne Chambers, Jim Rovira and others for your editorial work, thank you. To Paul Smith for your editorial help, corrections, and dares, thank you. My brain dances a little differently, so thanks for helping me find the balance.

To Dianne Hall, Doree Rice, Caleb Milligan, and other students, scholars, and friends, thanks for helping years ago with *Beggars Can Be Chosen* and fitting some of those stories into this book.

To college students and epilepsy groups and churches and businesses who enter conversations with me about Jesus and listen to me speak about the Divine Romance, thank you.

To true friends who've helped me survive and endure through so many life seasons, thanks for meals and prayers and conversations.

To Steve Spillman, thanks for believing not only in my writing and our "brand," but in me as a weak man who loves Jesus.

And to my Teacher, thank you. Please continue to help me pause in my hurry to notice Your work, learn more about You, and encounter You personally in everyday life. I am honored to be Your student.

About *Pause with Jesus*

Pause with Jesus, like the other books in the *Pause* series, is designed for both personal and group reading. Each chapter follows a theme, and each theme offers opportunities for individual reflection and group discussion. Readers can calmly reflect on each story, answer the questions, read and meditate on the Scriptures, and seek to apply the theme personally. Small groups also can engage in discussions related to every story. *Pause with Jesus* offers a reminder, a contemplative inspection, and moves us toward action.

However you decide to enter a time of reflection and investigation, and whatever your personal situation, begin now. Pause and think. Investigate. By yourself and in the correct group, visit Jesus. Choose to not travel this journey of life alone.

Scholarly material is available elsewhere. Deeper study, more specific spiritual practices, and historical encounters are available elsewhere. Pursue them to add that dimension as you read this book. We all need to study deeply and address crucial questions. Here, though, the words invite us to spend time with *the* Word. That Word, Jesus, is best experienced by practicing various methods of communication through praying, reading, serving, learning, worshipping, confessing, and spending time with true friends. And it becomes more a reality when not

limited to such practices, but when those disciplines build such a deep relationship that we are encountering Christ no matter what else we are doing.

Spiritual exercises, questions to consider or discuss, and Scripture conclude each chapter. When practiced alone or among family, friends, and small groups, those exercises can guide each of us in our journeys.

I hope these stories become a part of our stories. Not only the stories of others in history. Our stories. Now.

— Chris Maxwell

There would never be any greater friend than Jesus. He was the friend who hadn't run from her in fear, the friend who had helped her and healed her. And now Jesus had proven His friendship for all of them in the most beautiful way. —Karen Kingsbury¹

¹ Karen Kingsbury, *The Friends of Jesus* (Brentwood, TN: Howard Books, 2015) 141.

Foreword

by Dr. Beverly Oxley

As I read the original manuscripts of Chris Maxwell's latest work, *Pause with Jesus*, I was taken back in my memory archives to March 1997. That was the date I had accepted an invitation of a 4-day pause to hang out with Jesus while attending a spiritual retreat in Atlanta. That "pause" marks a line of demarcation in my life—the Old and New Testaments, the Pre- and the Post, the Before and the After of my life. I now often refer to "before 1997 and after 1997" because the encounter with Jesus was a pause that forever changed who I am.

I chronicled my experience in a journal that I joyfully share with you because, I believe, Jesus wants *you* to experience Him in such a personal, authentic way that will change the course of your *life*. As you ***pause with Him***, you make it possible for ***Him to pause with you*** ... and you will be forever changed.

During one of our times of guided prayer, the retreat leader asked us to do a classic exercise of surrender to God—taking time to stop and think about what that means to us personally. He asked us to put our palms down, releasing to God anything that might be keeping us from having a closer relationship with Him. He then encouraged us, when we were ready, to turn our palms up when we were willing to say "yes" to God and "yes" to whatever He has planned for us. As the twelve of us sat in a

circle, meditating on our surrender to God, I couldn't turn my hands up! I was struggling with that surrender because of anger and unforgiveness toward my father. Because of the rejection and neglect I had received from my father, I had lived my whole life feeling unloved, unwanted, unacceptable. Long after everyone else had completed the exercise, I finally turned my hands up in surrender. I could never have predicted what happened next.

As I was meditating on what that surrender might mean, I suddenly had a vision of a scene that I will never forget. I was one of the thousands of people on the Mount of Beatitudes on the hillside overlooking Capernaum. (I had been to Israel so I clearly recognized the place.) In this vision I was a child of about five years old, wearing a plain brown dress and sandals, reminiscent of clothing probably worn in Jesus' time. I was there with my mother, grasping her hand tightly out of fear that the throngs of people might separate me from her.

Then, the scene changed to a little further up the hill where I saw a man who was about to begin speaking to the people. He was sitting down but the crowd became quiet when he began to speak and all attention was focused on Him. I recognized Him as Jesus. He was speaking the words that we find in Matthew chapter 5. Suddenly, His eyes riveted toward me and He spoke directly to me: "Blessed are the pure in heart ... for they shall see God." I pulled myself behind my mother's dress trying to hide but I continued to look at Him. He stopped talking and just looked at me. His eyes were fixed on me and I couldn't escape His gaze. I also couldn't escape the fact that He was obviously speaking to me.

Slowly, slowly, I walked timidly up the hill to where He was sitting. Our eyes were fastened on each other. When I got close enough, I spoke to Him, “But I am not pure in heart.” He continued to look at me with tender, loving eyes. Then, a realization hit me ... “for they shall see God.” I KNEW I was looking at God, so it finally began to sink in what He meant ... I was pure in heart. ... I was accepted, not rejected; I was loved, not abandoned; I was invited into relationship, not discarded.

I accepted His invitation by climbing into His out-stretched arms while He held me close to Him and rocked me like a mother rocks her baby. Jesus held me and time stood still. I was transported to a dimension of the spiritual world that I had never experienced before. When I finally left His arms, I was forever changed. I was loved! I was important! I was forgiven! I had seen Jesus!

For almost two months after that experience, I felt a “fullness” in my chest cavity ... a feeling of satiation ... well-being ... contentment. That sensation finally faded over time, but the change in me has never faded. That pause in time with Jesus was life-altering. When we spend time with Jesus, fully immersed in Him, we are never the same. My prayer is that you will take the time to pause with Jesus and let Him take you to a place of no return.

—Beverly J. Oxley, PhD
Licensed Psychologist
Founder and Director, Wellsprings Psychological Resources
Franklin Springs, Georgia

SAMPLE

Introduction: To Enter

I, a citizen of the visible world, know well the struggle involved in clinging to belief in another, invisible world. Christmas turns the tables and hints at the struggle involved when the Lord of both worlds descends to live by the rules of one. In Bethlehem, the two worlds came together, realigned; what Jesus went on to accomplish on planet earth made it possible for God someday to resolve all the disharmonies in both worlds. No wonder a choir of angels broke out in spontaneous song, disturbing not only a few shepherds but the entire universe.
—Philip Yancey²

Think of reading the biblical stories of Jesus as a written travelogue. Each verse, story, chapter, account stands alone as an example of the exquisite life of Christ—as each snapshot from a vacation individually reflects a unique experience of life. Unless surveyed as a whole, the completeness escapes and leaves

² Philip Yancey, *Finding God in Unexpected Places* (New York: Ballantine Publishing Group, 1995) 37.

us grasping mere fragments. The totality of a vacation, missed when viewing individual photos, can be seen by observing the album containing all the pictures, or a video showing the story in motion. Places and people. Good days and bad. Events comprising the entire trip come into focus, accurately portraying a journey that would appear out of balance when only certain pictures were noticed.

This biblical travelogue presents description, like snapshots of a historical person. Knitted together, stories from Christ's life bring into focus a true and astounding picture. More than a portrait of a movement, it is representation of the Man Himself. A Man who loved all the characters of the drama.

The lonely? He loved them.

The misfits? He loved them.

The legalistic, religious, gotta-do-it-our-way-or-we-will-kill-you folks? He loved them.

Demonstrations of that love differ with each scene, but uniqueness merges with unity; the same pure, profound love shines in every sighting.

Who really is that Great Lover? Is He a rigid, lifeless religious man walking under a halo? Is He a lunatic on a neurotic mission to prove supremacy? Is He a moral mercenary determined to demobilize doubters and sinners by running roughshod along a road of political opportunism? Is He a teacher, one of many who have spoken for God through the ages? Or is He, as He claimed, the Incarnation of God?

Turn to a teacher for a definitive argument regarding Christ's deity. Turn to an apologist for an arsenal of proof-texts to ward off skeptics. It's not all here. But as I learn from so many groups that know so much more, I hope they have taught me to learn from Jesus.

What I've offered here is an awareness, a glimpse, of what the Gospel writers were telling us. And what life seems to be revealing. These stories have caused me to see Jesus in fresh ways.

During my childhood I learned to accept the doctrine of Christ's deity. That training has served me well and pointed me, I believe, to the greatest truth in all of life. But, over time, spoon-fed truth can grow stale. Spiritual vision, previously vivid, blurs.

Exploring the narratives again, and with wide eyes, worked. It dusted off death from my belief system. I noticed Jesus in a new way. While watching, I have been shaken. I have been shattered. He laughed and cried. Now, I laugh while typing, as tears fall from my eyes.

I am more aware than ever of both my imperfections and His love for me in spite of my frailty. Watching Him with sinners in Matthew's house, seeing Him gaze at the impish Zacchaeus while certainly grinning, hearing His powerful words stifle the storm: such scenes moved me despite my familiarity with them. Moments of study offered me the impossible task of laying aside my preconceptions long enough to live through the events unfettered by prematurely drawn conclusions. Along the way, I met Jesus. Again. And He is very real, very alive.

And He seems to think we are all important.

It would be far too simplistic to imply that pausing to spend time with Him cures all ills or renders one continually happy. It could be equally untrue and entirely unfair to pretend that uniting our lives with His makes little difference. Deciding to investigate the “who” question of Jesus can start you down the road where the “what,” “why,” and “how” questions of life become answered in deep, dynamic ways.

If you were, like I was, born and bred in the briar patch of Christianity, thank your parents and your pastors and the martyrs and the saints. But beware. The eternal truths you’ve come to so readily accept may have grown rusty. Familiarity with theology can make us more religious than real.

Unless Christ invades The Story.

Read and reread the stories about Jesus. Look earnestly for the gentle, strong Leader. Refuse to settle for what you have heard. Do not reject tradition, but do not attempt to confine Christ in a cage of the common. Training may be accurate, but we desperately need the jolt a new look at Jesus can bring.

Annie Dillard, in *The Living*, articulates a caution: “No child on earth was ever meant to be ordinary, and you can see it in them, and they know it, too, but then the times get to them, and they wear out their brains learning what folks expect, and spend their strength trying to rise over those same folks.”³

3 Annie Dillard, *The Living* (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1992) 189.

Don't we notice how eager efforts of maturity rob us of childlike earnestness? Our removal of crawling and crying has also robbed our romance. May the thirst for Milk return. May the thrill of Joy refill. May the theory never rob the reformation of faith in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

May we refuse to think lightly of Jesus. May we refrain from closeness to Him that merely leaves us callous to His majesty. May we refuse to be ordinary. May we not work so hard to rise above others.

May we pause.

May we pause with Jesus.

In the moments, the adventures, the stories of our lives, may we pause with Jesus.

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face.

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace."⁴

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times (Micah 5:2).

4 Helen H. Lemmel, "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," *Glad Songs* (London: British National Sunday School Union) 1922.

SAMPLE

The Silence

John 1: 4–5

Jesus is the one who brings the God I need to me. —Eugene H. Peterson⁵

The tilted planet spins by habit in sad silence. Heaven is quiet. No words have fallen from above for four still centuries.

Will earth end this way? Will she slow, sleep, die while her Maker appears absent?

Creator spoke in days past. His voice through creation, His voice through creatures, came clearly. Words thundered, whispered, burned into the conscience of this populated satellite.

The words stopped. People noise continued: words scattered, words sent, words screamed around the earth and up from earth toward the squelched sky. But, from above, nothing.

⁵ Eugene H. Peterson, *Leap Over a Wall: Earthly Spirituality for Everyday Christians* (New York: HarperCollins, 1997) 191.

PAUSE WITH JESUS

She flies through skies on course: a planet in place on a pause of maintenance. Can she keep going while weighted with the heavy silence? Will her malaise catch and moor her?

This cannot be all. Creator promised to say more. The Father of worlds vowed to voice His word again.

Tonight, some say, the silence has ceased.

Tonight, some say, the Word has come.

Wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, some say, the Word has come.

Sound waves of infant cries: Could it be the voice of God? Shepherds and sheep, mom and dad and angels gather around the center of attention. A Baby born in a world hoping to hear from heaven: Is such a small event worth so much attraction?

God would speak from a mountain or a temple or a television studio. God would speak as a religious leader or a king or a political activist. Not from a barn as a Baby.

The signs shout and dare a world to believe.

Dark doubt has lost a little of its grip on earth tonight, for some reason. The planet of frowns has found a few smiles of wonder tonight, for some reason.

Will a world hear a Word and be healed? Hear a word from an Infant and find faith? Will she?

Time will tell. But tonight the sky is scattered with sound. The music of angels, of stars, of promises fulfilled.

The Silence

It does appear odd that God would talk this way. And after so long. Yet, if this is God, pray the planet shall listen.

Shall listen, as she spins and flies through noisy skies, shall listen. Pray she shall hear that a long-awaited Word is here.

A Baby cried; the silence died.

The Boy grew: an Alive World sounded louder, filling the vacuum of silent centuries.

A mother, so young, carried Him, held Him. She listened and loved the growing Voice of God.

An old man, bent and crippled for years by bearing the burdens of his fears, deaf and dumb from decades of hearing and saying nothing, heard the Word. His eyes opened; his back straightened. The Word became his friend. The old man learned from his young Tutor. Soon, the man spoke and sounded strangely like his Teacher.

A priest knew the rules and requirements, and met them proudly. He spoke words. Often and in public, he spoke many words. Old words. Dead words. Words added by man, the addendum to a complete, solid-as-stone word given long before. Stories from the Alive Word flew to the ears of that priest who continued reciting his prayers. The priest could not hear God above his own voice.

A lonely woman had heard the words of many men—men who assured her of their love as they assigned her duties. She performed; they paid—that was the love she heard of. But this, this was so new. God's Voice talked to her, talked of giving

instead of taking, of choices instead of chores. His words and His tone, His expressions and His explanations sounded like an invitation rather than condemnation. She loved the Word who loved her. She learned the words and lived again, loving a world with them.

A religion collected dust. No sound waves blew across the kept canon. No challenges. No changes. Neat and quiet, the noiseless liturgy disturbed no one. Then, the Word spoke abruptly, shattering the stained-glass cage. Dust flew, but few knew how thick it had grown.

Deep silence dies slowly, if at all.

A place waited. It now felt recreated. The planet danced: an awed world hearing love, finding a Voice of sure celebration.

Joy to the world. To young mothers and bent old men, to lonely women and all who have ears to hear: joy to the world.

The Word is come. Let earth receive His Voice.

READ:

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and

The Silence

she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:4–7).

REFLECT:

1. When have you faced and endured times of silence?
 2. What did God bring to you?
 3. What did you learn?
 4. How does Christ's story influence your story?
-

RECEIVE:

We want. Life leaks. Desires are disappointed. And God, our Father, remains eternally good.

—Jen Pollock Michel⁶

⁶ Jen Pollock Michel, *Teach Us To Want: Longing, Ambition & The Life of Faith* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014) 107.

RESPOND:

- Notice your silence.
- Picture Christ coming to you and being there. Being with you.
- Welcome His presence in the middle of this season of waiting.

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CHRIS MAXWELL

ABOUT PAUSE WITH JESUS

The new followers of Jesus Christ asked a question, “Where are you staying?” Jesus voiced an intriguing answer, “Come and you will see.”

He opened His arms, His home, His life to the seekers. His invitation, “Come”—a central theme of the Gospel narratives; an essential theme of the Bible; the true purpose of this book—opened a new world for those men. The Inviter invited them behind the scenes of history’s most remarkable drama.

But isn’t Christ’s invitation just as real and personal to us today as it was when Jesus welcomed His disciples by the water? Isn’t He inviting us to Himself, to His adventure, to His mission, to His story? Isn’t He meeting us in our daily lives as we fish, as we write, as we read, as we hurry?

Read through these pages and hear His invitation to us all.

Sometimes we’re so busy serving Jesus that we fail to enjoy him. Or so preoccupied with the ministry of the Word, that we forget to commune with the Word made Flesh. Pause with Jesus, rescues us from this cruel irony. With sparse, elegant prose, Chris Maxwell gives fresh glimpses of our Lord from the pages of Scripture. Maxwell’s insights and images will encourage you to slow down and enjoy Jesus again—and then serve him out of love and wonder, not duty and shame.

—Drew Dyck
Managing Editor of *Leadership Journal*
Author of *Yawning at Tigers*

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—April Yamasaki
Lead Pastor, Emmanuel Mennonite Church,
Abbotsford, B.C., Canada
Author of *Sacred Pauses: Spiritual Practices for Personal Renewal*

Chris Maxwell is a storyteller with the eyes of a poet and a pastor with the heart of a mystic. In this fourth installment of the “Pause” series, Chris chooses 30 scenes from the life of Christ and then invites you to hit pause and step into each story. Then he invites you to take the time to read, reflect, receive and respond, before you step back with Jesus into your life.

—Gary W. Moon, M.Div., Ph.D.
Executive Director Martin Institute and Dallas Willard Center, Westmont College
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