



## Episode 63: Make Room

I'm Emily P. Freeman and welcome to The Next Right Thing. You're listening to Episode 63.

I'm all about helping create space for your soul to breathe so you can do your next right thing and it's an honor to join you each week here, offering a nod of understanding to those of you who, like me, struggle with decision fatigue.

One practical tool I've created to help with that during this season of advent is The Quiet Collection for Christmas, a 14 day audio devotional series I mentioned last week. Today is the last day to get access to it so if you haven't had a chance yet, today is the day — I created this offering last year but if you're new around here and never purchased it then, you can find it at [emilypfreeman.com/Christmas](http://emilypfreeman.com/Christmas).

Today's episode is brought to you by a foot of snow and my computer battery — we've lost power at my house so I have to ration my battery life. The upside of recording episodes so close to release is that the content is always fresh and hopefully relevant.

The downside? When you get a record snowfall in your city and your power goes out the day you're supposed to record. And so it goes.

Hopefully the quiet on my end will translate to peace on yours.

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We woke up this morning to a cold, quiet house, fresh snow falling on top of yesterday's impressive accumulation.

John carried in wood and boiled water for coffee. I emptied the fridge of perishables and packed them with ice. We read by the light of candles and our fireplace, with blankets on our laps, hands wrapped around mugs of hot instant coffee.

Then I outlined this podcast episode for you with a pen on paper so basically, we're homesteaders now.

On Sunday as the snow fell and more kids started to show up at our house, looking for a place to sit and hot chocolate to drink, John suggested we push the sofa back from the rug - *It will make more room*, he said. *We can spread out*, he said.

And so we did — we pushed back the furniture to make more room.

Making room doesn't just happen. We have to do it on purpose.

In the end, we would get over a foot of snowfall in one day, the third largest recorded in one day in central North Carolina. This snow wouldn't leave a clean white blanket on our front lawn. Instead, the photos show a mostly white scene with rusty brown leaves dotting the ground because this is an early snow for us.

In December, the trees aren't quite finished shedding their leaves yet — and so when an early snowfall comes and the wind picks up, the branches make room to hold the snow by letting go their leaves.

Like Rahab, whose name means broad, large, a vast space of land, who betrayed her own people to assist the people of God, who made room for spies to find protection from capture, danger, and death, we, too, make room for righteousness and goodness to come take up residency within us.

Like Mary, the mother of God, who had never known a man, who had other plans for her life, who never asked for the choosing, we make room for the Holy interruption to come and weave life in unexpected ways at unplanned times for the sake of an unknown people.

Like the trees in my front yard shedding brown leaves as snow comes too much, too soon, we make room for something new even though it comes too fast, even though it might feel dangerous, even though we aren't quite ready. We make room.

This weekend we made room in the fridge for extra food, we made room in our schedule for kids to miss three days of school and for extra kids to come over and sled.

Today I make room for peace even though chaos ensues, I make room for hope even though my to-do list is longer than my not-to-do list.

Maybe your next right thing for today is to consider where you might need to make some room today.

Is there a room in your house you need to prepare to take the boxes from the corner to move the summer clothes into the closet and cover the bed with fresh sheets to make space for a guest?

Is there good, important work hiding beneath the clutter on your desk, keeping you distracted from your calling?

Are there clothes in your closet that no longer fit your body or your life stage?

Are you holding on to an old dream, a former relationship, a worn-out worry that's taking up too much space and cluttering up your heart?

Might you be willing to create space and make room for something new?

Is it time? Are you ready?

During Advent, it's true we wait expectantly. It's also true we're preparing for an arrival.

What does preparation look like for you today? Might it include creating some space? Making some room? Clearing some clutter and not just the kind you can see?

O God give us eyes to see the extra things we no longer need — both the kind we can touch and the kind invisible.

Be our counselor as we discern our next right thing.

Be our priest as we confess the clutter we've allowed to crowd the way.

Be our midwife as we steward new birth.

Be our courage as we dare to be ruthlessly honest and relentlessly gentle with ourselves.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen. Hallelujah.

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Thanks for listening to this short episode 63 of The Next Right Thing.

I hope, as always, to help create space for your soul to breathe and to help make room for your next right thing.

These episodes come once a week, as you know, but during a hectic December perhaps you would like some daily support — that's why I created The Quiet Collection for Christmas. For less than a dollar a day I'll deliver a short audio devotional straight to your inbox for the next 2 weeks, starting today.

Today is the last day for you to grab it before it disappears. What I'm hearing from listeners is it's helping to ease some of that seasonal anxiety that can creep up this time of year.

Thanks to Nadine from @thegildedleaf on Instagram who says "It's wonderful. My new routine for advent is 10 minutes beside the tree listening to you your beautiful words before the rest of the house wakes up and the hustle begins. Much needed."

And listener Shanna compares the collection to "the stillness of the falling snow on a winter night — that's how I feel as I listen."

I'm so glad to hear that and I sure hope it's the same for everyone who listens.

You can find the collection by visiting [emilypfreeman.com/christmas](http://emilypfreeman.com/christmas) which we will of course link to in the show notes. My apologies to you if you're listening to this episode later in the week but because the collection delivers once daily, and because we have 2 weeks until Christmas, well math says today is the last day we can offer it so you'll get it all before Christmas day again that's why today Tuesday, December 11 is the last day to sign up for The Quiet Collection for Christmas at [emilypfreeman.com/christmas](http://emilypfreeman.com/christmas).

As always you can find me there at [emilypfreeman.com](http://emilypfreeman.com) and check out the “Work with Me” section of my website where you can see places I’ll be serving as a speaker in 2019. You can also find me on Instagram @emilypfreeman — next week will be our last episode of 2018.

Until then, you can join me in repeating these familiar lines: Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her king. Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.

Thanks for listening and I’ll see you next time.