



266: On Being A Well by Macrina Wiederkehr

I am Emily P. Freeman, and welcome to The Next Right Thing. You're listening to episode 266.

This is a podcast about making decisions, but also about making a life. If you struggle with decision fatigue, chronic hesitation, or if you just need a few minutes away from the constant stream of information and the sometimes delightful but also distracting hum of entertainment, well, you're in the right place for discerning your next right thing. Sometimes I talk directly to you and sometimes I bring on a guest. Sometimes I read words straight from the Hebrew scripture. And sometimes, like today, I'll read words from someone else for all of us to listen to and carry with us and reflect on together.

Today, I've chosen a poem by Macrina Wiederkehr, a writer who has been a companion for me for many years now, though she never knew it. She died in 2020, and I wish I would've been brave enough or had the connections to ask her to be a guest on the podcast before then. She was a master of everyday spirituality and had a lovely way of seeing and speaking of God in the midst of ordinary things of life. She wrote a reflection on Jesus's interaction with the woman at the well as recorded in John chapter four. So here is On Being a Well, by Macrina Wiederkehr, from her book, *Seasons of Your Heart*. Listen in.

What makes this world so lovely is that somewhere it hides a well. Something lovely there is about a well, so deep, unpiped and real, filled with buckets and buckets of that life-giving drink. A faucet will do in a hurry. But what makes the world so lovely is that somewhere it hides a well. Sometimes people are like wells, deep and real, natural, unpiped, life-giving, calm and cool, refreshing. They bring out what is best in you. They are like fountains of pure joy. They make you want to sing or maybe dance. They encourage you to laugh even, when things get rough. And maybe that's why things never stay rough once you've found a well.

Some experiences are like wells too. People create them. They are life-giving happenings. They are redeeming experiences. They are wells. Wells of wonder, wells of hope. When you find a well, and you will someday, drink deeply of the gift within, and then maybe soon you'll discover that you've become what you've received and then you'll be a well for others to find. So lift up your eyes and look all around you, over the mountains, down in the valley, out in the ocean, over the runways, into the cities, into the country, sidewalks and highways, paths in the forest, into the hearts of a thirsty people. Look, and I beg you, don't ever stop looking because what makes this world so lovely is that somewhere it hides a well, a well that hasn't been found yet. And if you don't find it, maybe nobody will. And if you don't be one, maybe nobody will find you.

Thanks for listening, and I'll see you next time.