



Godspeed – The Pace of Being Known

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This is the story of Matt Canlis, an American pastor, whose desire to change the world grinds to a halt in a Scottish parish. Join Eugene Peterson, N. T. Wright, Alan Torrance, Father Giles, Mrs. French, Colin Presly, and others on a pilgrimage to being known in your own backyard.

1. **TAKE AWAYS** - What jumps out most from the film? How did the film make you feel? What emotions did you experience while watching?

2. **RUNNING** – On a scale of 1 to 10, what's your current pace of life (i.e., level of "hurry")? How does hurry affect you (i.e., relationships, faith, life satisfaction)?

"When you're always running, you miss things." - Matt Canlis

3. **WALKING** – What does "walking the parish" look like in your world?

"I wasn't there to give people the Good News. I was there to be a part of their life. With time, questions might come out, but I ended up learning more about them and they about me than me communicating the truth that they needed to hear." – Matt Canlis

"Nobody in America gets listened to very much." - Eugene Petersen

4. **STAYING** – What are the advantages of staying in one place for a long period of time?

"Stability usually means staying in the same monastery until you die. The secret of stability is to realize that I am a sinner, but before that, I am a beloved sinner." – Father Giles

"We live in such a rootless world. My wife and I have moved 16 times in 42 years." – N.T. Wright

"We are the tourist generation, always on the move, so we can avoid being known. This avoidance of being known is totally different from the way that Jesus lived in the first century and the way that most humans have lived for all of history." – Matt Canlis

5. **NAMES** – What difference does it make to know and be known by name?

"One part of speech that is the most important in language is the name. Names are the very basic life-giving term in language. You say a person's name and it means something because there's a relationship. Until there's a name, there's no relationship. I've had pastors who never knew my name." – Eugene Peterson

6. **KNOWN** – Is “being known” a priority that churches should have? Why or why not? What needs to happen to be known and to know others?

“We don't want to be known by name because we don't know if they're going to like us.”
- Eugene Petersen

“Very quickly we see people's faults. It takes longer to see people's virtues. To know people, takes time.” – Father Giles

“When Alan (Torrance) learned that Jesus lived in a village, earning people's trust the hard way, he believed. It wasn't a sermon that changed his mind, it was a map.” – Matt Canlis

7. **BELONGING** – What might be scary about belonging and being known? What does it take to belong and be known in a community?

“I belonged to Udney.” – Mrs. French

“In the beginning, this fishbowl world was a little bit scary. I thought, My goodness! They could see everything I'm doing.” – Matt Canlis

8. **CHURCH** – How does the way we “do” church impact “knowing and being known?” As a church family, what are some ideas that can help us to know and be known such that a strong sense of community in Christ is developed?

“I realized I would need to make a whole lot more time than I used to in order to be present with people.” – Matt Canlis

Matt Canlis shared, *“I preached an awesome sermon one Sunday, but I asked Malcolm Ramsay (the Pitlochry Pastor who I was interning under) what he thought of it.”* Malcolm said, *“The ending should have come 10 minutes sooner.”* To which Matt responded, *“Malcolm, that's only a 20-minute sermon. People deserve more on a Sunday.”* And Malcolm replied, *“Matt, people deserve more on a Monday.”*

9. **SLOWING DOWN** - Our culture is not a walking culture, so what does this principle of walking and slowing down look like here, in our neighborhoods and communities? What did Eugene Peterson mean when he talked about “unearthing holiness?”

“It might be that if we slowed down, we might be able to catch up with God.” – Matt Canlis

“There is no place without the potential for unearthing holiness.” – Eugene Peterson

10. **MOVING FORWARD** – What's next? What challenges or fears could present themselves as obstacles to taking action? How will you deal with those challenges and fears, in order to step out in faith?