

# Jake Maxwell

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Religious leader, Second Baptist, Lubbock, organized religion, youth ministry, theology, mental health, physical health, social distancing, pandemic, white privilege, contemplative tradition, Roman Catholic, mask, Texas Tech, anxiety

## SPEAKERS

Jake Maxwell, Mary Wilson

- M** Mary Wilson 00:02  
Hi, this is Mary Wilson on September 29th, 2020, interviewing Jake Maxwell, Pastor of Second Baptist in Lubbock. Jake, I want to start off by thanking you for being here and agreeing to be a part of this. I'm pretty excited about our conversation today.
- J** Jake Maxwell 00:21  
That's generous. You're thanking me and excited now, let's see [laughs].
- M** Mary Wilson 00:29  
One of the questions that I have, at some point, asked everyone that I've been interviewing is something along the lines of tell me your story - in a way that is, what highlights formative events in your life that have brought you to where you are today.
- J** Jake Maxwell 00:53  
My parents are neat people and broken people just like me. My mom is a yankee hippie, who made her way to Texas, and dad is a Dallas working poor sort of turned hippie and they met. Mom was raised sort of Roman Catholic, dad was raised very Southern Baptist. I have two brothers and my parents worked really hard to build a family and we have

had a wonderful childhood. Unfortunately, their marriage didn't last. However, the spirituality kind of that they both, particularly after they divorced - we'd go to mass with mom and go to church with dad. We were baptized as infants in the room at the, in the parish there, and we were confirmed as Baptists later. But really, after my parents divorce, kind of those nuances became more accentuated. I think the divorce got really nasty on a number of levels. It was a source of shame, I think, for a lot of us, and just kind of in how embarrassing some of this stuff was. In the long run, it was a source of learning, and my brothers and I are real close. I think it we're very close. I think in part because of what we went through together.

Mary Wilson 02:45

M

Yeah, how old were you?

Jake Maxwell 02:47

J

I was 10, 12 maybe. It took a long time because of just conflict and that just compounds on itself, whatever. However, my brothers both kind of walked away from organized religion during that time, and have stayed away from organized religion. I kind of doubled down on the youth group, but over time, just kind of felt this interest in spirituality. Particularly, it was probably sort of towards the end of college or even in graduate school, where I discovered that I think it was contemplative tradition, really. Now, I didn't even know that term then, but it was the quiet practices that really it was meditation, right? I was told for so long, read your Bible and pray, but it was years later I learned that this thing that was so interesting in me was really this resonance with the quiet or even with experience. Sometimes climbing a mountain, but most often is it was cold, and it was early, and it was dark, and I was having a cup of coffee, and I was outside. So that's it. Then later, that became this sort of experience [that] became a practice - a contemplative or meditation practice, yoga even, practice. That's kind of how it went. Now, I find myself in this kind of quote unquote, "progressive" or quote unquote, "liturgical" Baptist tradition. Sometimes I just laugh because some of our Baptist friends say we look Catholic. I'm like, "well yeah, that's exactly where I would land, in a Baptist Catholic sort of setting." It kind of all feels full circles sometimes.

Mary Wilson 05:05

M

Yeah, yeah. Well, what was it about the youth group that you found I guess so appealing that helped you dive into that?



Jake Maxwell 05:16

Yeah. Well, I had a youth minister who skateboarded and looked like Vanilla Ice and rapped like Vanilla Ice in a time where that was just perfect. He was real present to me in those years just post divorce. For a little while there I thought, "oh I just want to be like him." Then I realized I don't want to have anything to do with youth ministry. That just took years to kind of figure out, but he was a person who was present to me. I guess maybe just kind of embodied for me, the ministry of presence.



Mary Wilson 05:57

Right. How do you find that to play out in your ministry today?



Jake Maxwell 06:06

Yeah, I mean, it really doesn't matter what I say.



Mary Wilson 06:12

No one, nobody's listening [laugh].



Jake Maxwell 06:14

Yeah, I mean, they're listening. Every week after a sermon, someone will say something to me and my hunch is, probably this happened to you too, my hunch is that I'm not special in this regard. Someone will say to me something like, "hey, when you said this in your sermon, that was really incredible, that was really meaningful to me." I'm just sitting there shaking my head and I'm also thinking, "I didn't say anything like that." It doesn't matter what I say, it's so much bigger and deeper. Everyone is sitting in there with their thing. They've walked in with all this stress, or all this expectation, or all this distraction. It's wild, and it's really kind of beautiful, and it's strange, but for the most part, it doesn't matter what I say there. 5% of the people really take the words, and analyze the words, and then probably show me later how I was wrong in what I said [laughs].



Mary Wilson 07:28

I suspect people listen to you more than you give yourself credit for. Yeah. What brought you to ministry? How did you become a pastor?



Jake Maxwell 07:41

Oh, man, okay. I went to school in college to study ministry, to study theology, and to be a youth minister. Probably either the way that it was taught to me, or most likely, the way that I received it, was faith was an argument to be won - so, structure that argument. I've just found myself over the years thinking, "I don't want to argue to youth as to why they think this is a good idea." Also, I can't do that. I'm not built for rhetoric or defending, apology, apologetics or whatever. It took a while to realize I don't want anything to do with it if that's what it's got to be about.



Mary Wilson 08:46

We've both been to youth camp as sponsors and ministers and arguing with youth about faith doesn't seem to really be helpful.



Jake Maxwell 08:57

Yeah, nor adults, you know.



Mary Wilson 08:59

Well, as it turns out, right, not adults either.



Jake Maxwell 09:03

I mean, really about anything. It was over the years, and it really was a couple people I met later on who - and we grew up Roman Catholic, and my parents were hippies. My parents found weed, marijuana, in the washer when we were growing up, and they couldn't punish me or my brothers because they're like, "Was this yours or is this one of the boys?" We kind of grew up in a family that was kind of a little bit pushing the envelope a little bit, maybe. Where was I? Oh, well, it was later in life, I kind of met these pastors who were, first of all, probably really good writers. Not like rhetorical arguments, but they were about poetry or short stories. I can remember going to Day Spring Baptist Church and the pastor got up there and instead of giving a sermon, he sat down on the front step and read a children's book. I was like, "I don't know what this is, but that was kind of cool." It was kind of little moments like that. It was these pastors who didn't just have cheesy one liners and wore press pants, but they smoked cigarettes and drank bourbon. Not that those things really matter, but there was, part of that just spoke to me. You know when you've met someone who has seen the throes of alcoholism and they come through, and they've gotten a chip, and they've experienced sobriety. I don't want to idolize alcoholism.

It's like, because you've seen somebody who has hit rock bottom and also figured out how to live on the other side of that - when you meet someone who's done that, maybe just on a spiritual sense, maybe not on the substance, but that sort of stuff, whoa, that kind of wowed me a little bit. When the point of the community became a little bit more about, just more simple sort of justice things, like feeding our neighbors and serving the poor, because those are real simple, right? Not even necessarily, not even addressing the systemic issues of poverty, but leaning into poverty, anti-poverty, or anti-hunger as part of faith practice. Not as a nice thing to do, but when that became part of the faith practice, those are the things that just kind of moved me.

Mary Wilson 12:11

M

Yeah. How do you connect that with a ministry of presence?

Jake Maxwell 12:18

J

Yeah. Showing up is a majority of the battle, is just showing up. Our culture really wants to maximize efficiencies. Ministry so often just seems like just show up, stand there, don't say anything, and that's all you need to do. It's the least efficient thing you could possibly do - take someone to a two hour lunch, and you just sit there. You don't say a thing at lunch, hardly, other than what you want to eat. Then at the end of the lunch, this person looks at you and says, "oh my gosh, thank you, you have been so helpful." Right? I'm thinking "I am nuts."

Mary Wilson 13:10

M

Why do you think that is? That what you say is less important than the presence that you have?

Jake Maxwell 13:17

J

Yeah, I don't have the answers. I don't have the answers. I don't own the spirit, I don't own truth. I think I believe all that is within you, or within everyone. To be present is to say, because so much of advice says, "I have the answer if you'll just do what I say." So much of religion says if you'll follow these steps, or at least bad religion, but this ministry presence is like, "no, you have you have everything you need. I validate you in your struggle just by sitting here. It would be violence to our relationship to assume that I understand the gravity of what you're experiencing, and that I could provide steps that help get you

out of this mess."

**M** Mary Wilson 14:10  
Yeah. Do you find that at times you're tempted to do that?

**J** Jake Maxwell 14:15  
Oh yeah, absolutely.

**M** Mary Wilson 14:16  
Because I certainly did. In my head is, "If you could just do X, Y or Z, your life will be so much better."

**J** Jake Maxwell 14:28  
Yeah. Sometimes there's people, there's other people who say, "I want you to tell me what to do."

**M** Mary Wilson 14:34  
Sure.

**J** Jake Maxwell 14:36  
If done very carefully, you can say, "well, I can wade into this and talk about it, but you need to know, I don't know, I don't have the answers for you." Sometimes even, we're dealing with a person who needs to make the decision for themselves. We've just enabled sort of a lifetime of endorphin hits by you just do what the leader, religious or otherwise, says. Then you kind of get this endorphin hit in your brain, you're like, alright, you just do the steps that they say to do and you've never really become this self-directed or self-aware.

**M** Mary Wilson 15:24  
Yeah. Well, let me shift a little bit here. How did you wind up in Lubbock?

J

Jake Maxwell 15:33

We drove ultimately. Yes, good question [laughs]. We were in Richmond for seven years and having a pretty good time and really enjoyed, really really enjoyed that city and made deep friendships and enjoyed a lot of the work with the church. We kind of got to this place where we're kind of at the end of one project with the church and about to start another. The church had kind of made a couple moves over the years that made us feel like the big tent was narrowing with respect to theology. We knew going in that maybe we were on maybe one end of the spectrum, but it's kind of like, first of all, it seemed like my supervisor really liked the fact that we were on one end of the spectrum, even though he couldn't quite get there himself. Over the years, sort of the community maybe, we felt at least, made some shifts. We kind of felt released in the sense that, we don't know that we can be really very helpful if that's kind of some of the values of the community. We were paying a lot of money, probably similar to Austin, not quite as crazy as Austin, but we're paying a lot of money to live in a really small house that we love. We had a child, we had two bedrooms and one bath, and then we had a child. All this plastic stuff was taking over our home.

M

Mary Wilson 17:18

Is all that plastic stuff what other people might call toys?

J

Jake Maxwell 17:22

It's like a never ending glacier. We love that little neighborhood and we love the friends, but we were just kind of in a lot of transition. A friend called and said, "hey, I've given your name to this church in Lubbock." He had done this before, and I didn't really pay much attention. He said, "listen, I actually want you to pay attention to this one," he said that. I was like, "you know what, it kind of lines up on a couple levels. They took a risk on us and we feel like we took a risk on coming here too." I think it's been just two years, but it's been pretty beautiful and fun, we're learning a lot.

M

Mary Wilson 18:03

Yeah, yeah. Well, good, good. How have things changed during this pandemic? What's life like in Lubbock? I know what it's like here in Austin, we've had hot spots in different times and so on. What's going on in Lubbock?

J

Jake Maxwell 18:25

Well, I think Texas Tech is one of the bigger publican universities to say, "hey we're going to

have classes in person in fall." I don't need to cast judgment on whether or not it was a good or bad decision, but I think it's indicative of kind of, sort of the mentality here in the city. Kind of keep going as usual, and take risk as you want to take risks, and wear your mask if you'd like. Our church was probably the first church in Lubbock to stop meeting in person. Then others followed the following week, but it kind of felt like maybe we're a little bit out there alone, at least for one Sunday. That was a little bit of.



Mary Wilson 19:37

What was your first Sunday to not meet?



Jake Maxwell 19:40

I can't remember, March 8th maybe. I think honestly there's a lot of division in Lubbock about this. There is around the world that it seems like to wear a mask is divisive, unfortunately. To not put your kids in school is, may be seen as an overreaction. To halt in person worship services, I think has become to be seen as an overreaction. Unfortunately, unfortunately, there's a lot we don't know. I find myself thinking, "we're not trying to make winners and losers here. We're not trying to be right and wrong. What is the most caring thing we can do?" I think it's been difficult, it's been difficult for me, it's been difficult on our family, we feel like our relationships have suffered. Certainly by protecting our physical health, we also feel like our mental health is not in the best place it's ever been. Woah, let's watch another movie together as a family.



Mary Wilson 21:16

Yeah. Is Second Lubbock meeting in person now?



Jake Maxwell 21:23

We're about to.



Mary Wilson 21:26

What's that gonna look like?





Jake Maxwell 21:29

I mean, all the safe distancing and all that sort of social distancing.



Mary Wilson 21:36

Are you going to ask people in attendance to wear a mask?



Jake Maxwell 21:39

Yes, absolutely. Masks won't be, I don't think that'll be a problem at all. People wear masks, will wear masks inside, I think. I don't think we'll see many people come. We've done a survey and not many want to come. But by being available, it will be available for those who do want to come and so, that's where we're at.



Mary Wilson 22:12

Yeah. Have you had much conflict within your congregation about this decision?



Jake Maxwell 22:17

Well, unlike other churches, we already have a fair amount of division in our church.



Mary Wilson 22:24

All right.



Jake Maxwell 22:25

No, I mean, I think on a healthy level. The world is divided, right? Politically divided, socially divided, we're not very racially divided as a church, but we probably are divided as a church how to respond to injustices, particular on a systemic level, in our country, and so forth. It's like anything else. People are passionate about x, and people are passionate about y, and there are people who are indifferent about z. I found myself being like, if there was one right answer, we would have done it. Generally speaking, I feel like churches don't always do bad things, but churches do often, things badly. Whatever we do, if we can just try to do it with as much grace as possible that will at least be helpful.

M Mary Wilson 23:29  
Yeah, yeah.

J Jake Maxwell 23:32  
But yes, go ahead.

M Mary Wilson 23:34  
Let me ask you, I'm making a connection here. You can tell me if I'm on the right track or not because I heard you explaining the conflict in your parents divorce and that it was a very difficult, conflictual situation. You had different influences religiously growing up, and you're in a church that does have a wide variety of opinions, beliefs and expressions. Do you feel like there's a connection there that you found yourself pastoring a church that is navigating that kind of thing?

J Jake Maxwell 24:11  
Are you reading my mail?

M Mary Wilson 24:13  
No, I'm not [laughs]. Just wondering. How does that childhood play into the way you pastor?

J Jake Maxwell 24:23  
Yeah. I avoid conflict.

M Mary Wilson 24:28  
Do you?

J Jake Maxwell 24:29  
Oh yeah, definitely. Sometimes that has benefited me greatly and other times that has not been been so great. I'm constantly trying to negotiate a compromise and sometimes compromise isn't good. Like if you want Italian food and I want Mexican food, a compromise would be Italian-Mexican food, right? That might not be the best fusion, right?

Sometimes it's good to say, "I want to eat Italian food because you want Italian food." Although I'm a little bit more particular to Thai and Indian food myself, personally.



Mary Wilson 25:12

Another not so great fusion [laughs]. That's a good way of explaining it. Sometimes you actually just have to choose a path.



Jake Maxwell 25:22

Yeah, definitely.



Mary Wilson 25:25

How does your congregation respond to a message like that? Sometimes you just have to choose.



Jake Maxwell 25:37

There certainly is a sentiment, at least in my experience in the church, where we want the pastor to be a strong leader. A strong leader is quote unquote, "a strong decision maker." I don't think those are qualities that at least are my instinctual go to. I'm not a naturally strong decision maker. Theologically, over the years, I've come to celebrate that. I feel like, okay, well I'm more contemplative, I enjoy the mysticism, I enjoy the listening, and the slow. Certainly, I think there's some notes in our world, okay, he will be a strong leader. All that stuff is cute and all, but lead the church. I [don't] think that I am in a unique position at all. In fact, I think I've read some things that other pastors have written, published, and just online newspapers or whatever about a lot of churches are looking to pastors right now to be experts on pandemics. I'm not, right? I'm not an expert on public health. All the more reason maybe to help make sure we get people discerning together and deciding together. We're a professional church, we've got a lot of achieving people with PhDs, and they own corporations, and have wonderful gifts. Probably, we're a church that has a lot of strong decision makers, I think. Not just here in Lubbock, but also in Richmond, I think my propensity to kind of like go slow has provided some friction.



Mary Wilson 27:43

Well, I would think in this pandemic and not meeting in person, and so on the going slow would be actually a gift to the congregation, maybe something valued. Have you experienced that?



Jake Maxwell 28:03

Yeah, no, certainly. There's certainly time for that less anxious presence is helpful, particularly in times of great disruption, anxiety, so on and so forth. But also, there are times where someone can think, "Why aren't you anxious about this? Why aren't you anxious about the people leaving the church and never coming back? Why aren't you anxious about money leaving the church and never coming back? Why aren't you anxious about all the unknowns?" I'm like, "Yeah, I know, there's a lot of unknowns out there." I still have a whole lot of work to do on that regard - how to be true to me and yet also serve the situation better.



Mary Wilson 29:05

Right, respond to other people's anxieties. That does raise the question, what makes you anxious?



Jake Maxwell 29:15

What makes me anxious? Probably being held to expectations that I didn't previously agree upon.



Mary Wilson 29:28

Ah, and that never happens to ministers [laughs].



Jake Maxwell 29:33

Yeah. I think that's probably the biggest thing. I think I'm okay with expectations that are reasonable and agreed upon, right? This is with respect to the church and with respect to just life, right. It's knowing those other expectations are out there and I'm like, "oh I don't want to be judged against that cuz I already knew that's not my thing."



Mary Wilson 29:37

Yeah, yeah.

**J** Jake Maxwell 30:06  
Yeah. Here's an example. There's a lot of folks who are about my age, younger-ish pastors, who are called by churches, who are older churches, like our churches. I think either implicitly or explicitly, consciously or unconsciously, the church is like, "oh you're young, you'll bring all the young people too."

**M** Mary Wilson 30:29  
Right.

**J** Jake Maxwell 30:31  
I don't know about that. That's hard, I don't know that that's me. Going back to families, both my brothers walked away from the church. I'm not trying to get them back inside the church. Why would I try to get your children back inside the church?

**M** Mary Wilson 30:47  
Right, right.

**J** Jake Maxwell 30:49  
I can't do that. You know, or just anytime a church might call someone new, or try some something new, there's like, maybe this will grow the church. I think church growth is a good thing, but how do we evaluate? How do we measure church growth? I'm like, "let's talk about what are the expectations here."

**M** Mary Wilson 31:16  
How do you think the pandemic is changing your church? Are there new challenges and new paths you have to pursue, anything like that?

**J** Jake Maxwell 31:30  
Yeah, we will do more. I am a bit of a dinosaur when it comes to technology. I know just enough to mess your computer up, but I always know who to call, call this person.

We were behind the curve, decidedly, probably with our technology. We're also an older church, so it really wasn't much of a consequence for us to be. However, I think we will continue to do distanced online offerings for the foreseeable future. Not because we're able to produce anything better than the work of the people or some incredible organizations who produce wonderful online digital material, but we have, unlike a distant organization, we have relationships with people. When I zoom with them or when people from our community zoom or whatever, there's that ministry of presence that you can't get just watching some stranger. I do think that'll be part of our learning going forward. Again, I'm not an expert on this virus, but I still think we have a whole lot to learn about it and its long term impacts. I think, whether it's respect to this virus or other viruses or other health concerns, I think we will see the church, this church at least if not the global church, sort of up its consciousness with respect to public health. I could be wrong there, but I think not just around the communion table, but what are the things that we do to say, "I value you as a person and your health and your well being." Again, particularly in a church with older folks who could really be hurt by something.

M

Mary Wilson 34:03

Yeah. Yeah. How do you balance that need for community versus the need for safety? Seems to be the big question not just in churches, but in schools and just in life and having, you know, outlets with friends, and yeah. And you mentioned mental health earlier. Can you say more about that and the struggles there?

J

Jake Maxwell 34:33

Yeah. With respect to mental health, I think Alice and I are both trying to do things to take care of ourselves, body, mind, soul and spirit. I think some of the body and soul, we're able to sort of maintain. We both like to run and ride bikes and that sort of stuff, real social distance friendly, going for walks and hikes, and that sort of thing. To be outside and to get that dopamine and endorphin and vitamin D, and all that sort of stuff is really helpful. That stuff is helpful for your mental health too, but some of the things that give joy, I think are missing. My wife is a chef, she is an artist in the kitchen, and she hasn't been in the grocery store for, I mean, how many months has it been? She goes in with a plan, certainly, and she uses way too many ingredients for one dish, but it's a creative outlet. Now, that creative outlet is shifted to buying your groceries online, you don't get to put your hand on the green pepper in the store. I mean, scientifically, we know how good that is for you to put your hands on the green pepper, whatever it is. I think there's some things that really produce some joy in our lives that are missing. I think social interaction is a big one too. It's

like, they've got big group meetings with our friends and various applications, but those have their limitations as well. I think we haven't been seeing friends. We've had a baby, and grandparents still haven't come to see the baby because we're just being careful. Compounded over the course of x number of months, it's like we find ourselves asking sometimes, "when does our mental well being, our mental health, sort of infringe upon what comfort we have with taking a risk with respect to our physical health?"

Mary Wilson 37:17

M

Yeah, yeah. Again, that balance of trying to figure out how to stay healthy in every way. It's a challenge right now.

Jake Maxwell 37:26

J

Yeah.

Mary Wilson 37:27

M

Well, congratulations on the baby. I don't think I said that.

Jake Maxwell 37:30

J

Oh yeah, good, thanks. We partied last night from about 2 am to 3 am. It was fun.

Mary Wilson 37:35

M

Oh, always [laughs]. Let me ask, is there anything that I haven't asked that you think would be important for people to know about you? How you wound up a pastor, formative events in your life that we haven't touched on?

Jake Maxwell 37:56

J

That's a good question. I can't think of anything, Mary. I think it's weird, right? It's weird to be a minister, you know how weird it is. It's weird to experience a pandemic, everyone knows how weird this is. I'm fortunate to just be able to say it's weird, right. I'm not saying this is awful because I've had to bury many people close to me, that sort of thing. I think spirituality sometimes is weird and that's okay. There's a lot of things that are weird. I think that just being comfortable with that sometimes, that's been helpful to me. I know it's weird, I know they make fun of us on Saturday Night Live, I watch it

and laugh at it because it is funny.

M Mary Wilson 38:58  
Yeah, yeah.

J Jake Maxwell 38:59  
We are weird. Also, it's kind of meaningful. I think there's some beauty in it. I think there's some depth to it too.

M Mary Wilson 39:09  
I have noticed, over the brief time I've known you, just how seemingly comfortable you are with the moment. Just being, whether it's strange, weird, unusual, anxious for other people, you just seem to be by and large pretty relaxed through things. How did you get there? That approach to life, especially to circumstances, I mean, people be going wild around you and you're just, "yeah okay, it's all right."

J Jake Maxwell 39:46  
This may sound strange to you, but some of the things that I'm really interested in I think helped me with that, maybe a little bit. I really enjoy running, I really enjoy surfing and snowboarding, and I really enjoy mountain biking.

M Mary Wilson 40:13  
You're going surfing in Lubbock?

J Jake Maxwell 40:15  
Yeah, the surfing thing is non-existent right now. Let the record show, I enjoy surfing, but I'm awful at it. Like wake boarding and things like that, hiking, I enjoy outdoors sort of thing. There's something about I think just the moment when you're outdoors, sometimes I'll listen to podcasts or sermons when I'm biking or running, but for the most part, I just prefer just to not listen to music, just kind of quiet. You get up there to, even if it's just a small hill that you summited, and you're like, "yeah, this is cool, this is it, this is the spot for today." I was talking to our friend Kyndall Rothaus a couple weeks ago, and she told a story, and I'll tell you the story. Do we have time or am I?





Mary Wilson 41:19

We do. We do.



Jake Maxwell 41:21

She was telling me this story. We went to seminary together at Truett and she was talking about - she is probably one of the best preachers, speakers or writers that I know, personally, maybe in history. There are some that are better. She's talking about this time that she and I were in the same classes together at Truett, and she's talking about how she thought, "oh my gosh, it was so cool that there was one woman who spoke at chapel in the whole year that we were there one year." Then the next year, she was pushing for more, maybe there's one and a half women who spoke, and 2.3 dogs or whatever that spoke. Then she talked about leaving seminary and going on to be a pastor and trying to encourage the seminary, "hey, here's names of incredible women who are just gifted speakers, teachers, thinkers, writers, whatever." Not only here are their names, here's their email address, their phone number, their social security number, their bank routing number, and all that. She was talking about how over the years, it was just such a struggle. She's been working for this - probably just did that incredible conference - was it last week - that she and Natalie and others have put on. You were probably there from the beginning too so. She was telling that story and I said to her, "you and I were in same classes and I also thought, wow that was great, we had one woman preach in Chapel this year." At the end of that conversation, Kyndall, and this is my privilege. I'm a young White male, so I have such privilege. At the end of that conversation in class, we were talking about the one woman who came and spoke. I'm thinking, "how can I go squeeze a mountain bike ride in before I have to go to work?" Kyndall, not being privileged with the same sort of posture in the world that I've just been given, she's leaving that class thinking, "how can we get two speakers here next year?" I do say I enjoy running, I enjoy biking, I enjoy doing these things. I'm also kind of learning how much privilege there is there too. I told Kyndall, "I'm so thankful you told that story because it's just another little point of learning for me." I was like, "wow, wow, I was present for the conversation, participating in class, I do my homework, but it was like, boom, class is over, see what else I can squeeze in to the day." I'm just mindful that our brothers and sisters, who are Black and Brown, and our brothers, our sisters who just don't have the same privilege as I do - they may not be able to have such an opportunity to squeeze in a whatever before they have to go to work.



Mary Wilson 44:41

What they're squeezing in is, how do I move the bar? How do I change the conversation

so that we're not talking about how great it is to have one, but maybe ten?

- J** Jake Maxwell 44:54  
Right, yeah. Let's be honest, I'm going mountain biking, and I'm going to a job that pays pretty well afterwards, whereas maybe our brothers and sisters, who are Black and Brown, they're going to other jobs that don't pay as well. Because I've been given a job that pays well, and so, I think, although those are spiritual things for me, I also try to be grateful for those opportunities because I've certainly been given a lot that I didn't earn or deserve.
- M** Mary Wilson 45:35  
Well, from what I know about you, I suspect you use that opportunity well.
- J** Jake Maxwell 45:39  
Well, thanks Mary. That's kind.
- M** Mary Wilson 45:43  
I appreciate you being here very much.
- J** Jake Maxwell 45:45  
Anytime, I'm glad to see you.
- M** Mary Wilson 45:47  
Yeah, I'm going to go ahead and stop the recording part now.