

# The Cost of Hurry

**Today I want to talk to you about the price you pay when you're in a hurry – the cost of hurry.**

When I was a teenager, *a long time ago*, I was leaving the house one morning, and my dad pointed out that one of the tires on my car was really low. He said, "Before you leave, you need to put some air in that tire." We had an air compressor in our garage, so it wasn't like I needed to go anywhere to pump the tire up. But I said something like, "I don't have time, I'm in a hurry." And my dad said, "If you don't have time to put air in the tire up now, will you have time to fix a flat later?" What my dad was saying is there's a price you pay for being in a hurry.

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**A few weeks ago, I was reading the book of Joshua and something from chapter nine really spoke to me.**

- Joshua was leading God's people to possess the land He had promised them.
- Since the days of Abraham, they've believed God for this land.
- And now, what they believed for is becoming a reality, and Joshua is leading the charge.
- **They had already experienced several victories.**
- **They had witnessed the parting of the Jordan River.**
- **The collapse of the mighty walls of Jericho.**
- **They had taken the city of Ai.**
- **Joshua is a man with great momentum.**
- He was on such an adrenalin high, that when the angel of the Lord came near his camp...
- He squared off with the angle and asked, "**Are you for us, or for our enemies?**"
- **That's a man with confidence.**
- But as Joshua moved from one city to the next, he made a terrible mistake.
- A group of men pretending to be from a distant land, came to Joshua.
- They were actually locals pretending to be travelers from far away.
- They used old clothes and moldy food to trick Joshua into making a peace treaty.

## Joshua 9:3-15

When the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, <sup>4</sup> they resorted to deception to save themselves. They sent ambassadors to Joshua.... <sup>6</sup> When they arrived at the camp of Israel, they told Joshua and the men of Israel, “We have come from a distant land to ask you to make a peace treaty with us.”

<sup>7</sup> The Israelites replied, “How do we know you don’t live nearby?” <sup>9</sup> They answered, “Your servants have come from a very distant country. We have heard of the might of the Lord your God and of all he did in Egypt. <sup>11</sup> So our elders and all our people instructed us, ‘Take supplies for a long journey. Go meet with the people of Israel and tell them that we are their servants; please make a treaty with us.’”

<sup>12</sup> “This bread was hot from the ovens when we left our homes. But now, as you can see, it is dry and moldy. <sup>13</sup> These wineskins were new when we filled them, but now they are old and split open. And our clothing and sandals are worn out from our very long journey.”

<sup>14</sup> So the Israelites examined their food, but they did not consult the Lord. <sup>15</sup> Then Joshua made a covenant of peace with them and guaranteed their safety.

**Sometimes, if we’re not careful, we move so fast that we end up making decisions we later regret.**

Joshua was a man of prayer, but Joshua got out of sync.

He was in a hurry. There were more cities to conquer.

Failing to pray cost him and the people he was leading.

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**Every time you find someone in the Bible who was in a hurry, someone suffered for it.**

King Saul and the sacrifice.

Mephibosheth’s caretaker.

King David and the Ark.

Throughout the Bible, every time you see someone in a hurry, it cost them.

Someone once said, “Hurry is not of the devil; hurry is the devil.”

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**So, here's the question: What do we glean from those stories, and how can we apply that to our everyday life? I want to answer that in five words and here's the first one:**

### **1. Pace.**

All of us have a healthy pace and all of us have an unhealthy pace and only you and God can determine the pace that's right for you.

**Think about this...** Jesus consistently and intentionally disconnected and withdrew to be alone with His own thoughts, and with His Father. He understood the power of pace.

*If the devil can't make you bad, he'll just make you busy.*

### **2. Prayer.**

The reason why we kick off each year with 21 days of prayer is it's a great way to recalibrate your pace.

If you want to thrive in life, work prayer into your pace.

There's no way we can be all that we were created to be without God's help.

Prayer turns ordinary people into extraordinary people.

### **3. Process.**

*I'm sure we all know the name Truitt Cathy, the founder of Chick-fil-a. Not only did he make the chicken sandwich famous, he also created the first drive-thru window and the first food court. All those things started with Truitt Cathy. He said the key to all those innovative ideas was: pace, prayer and process.*

In other words, he scheduled time to relax, to pray and to think (to process).

#### 4. Plan.

When I'm facing a big decision, I know that if I work prayer into my pace and time to think (to process), then with confidence, I can begin putting a plan together. And once I have a plan, it's time to pursue that plan.

#### 5. Pursue.

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The Bible says that **love is patient.**

In other words, **love is never in a hurry.**

Listen, listen, listen...

The Holy Spirit leads, the devil pushes.