

Endorsements

Masey is authentic, open, and truly loves Jesus. Your daughters will definitely be encouraged and strengthened in their walks with the Lord through this devotional as ours have been!

—Jeremy and Adrienne Camp
Contemporary Christian musicians

The beyond-her-years wisdom that pours from Masey's heart, along with her cute sense of humor and raw honesty, will pull you in and make you feel like you're having coffee with a friend.

—Meredith Andrews
Contemporary Christian music artist and songwriter

It's Worth It offers day-by-day transparent, relevant, and honest devotions for those seeking purpose on their life journey.

—Hannah Brencher
Author of *If You Find This Letter*, and founder,
The World Needs More Love Letters

The joy of Masey's life in Christ will bring joy into your life too as you read the pages of her book.

—Roger Glidewell
President and founder, Global Youth Ministry

Masey has an exceptional heart for God and a desire to see others know and grow in Christ. Her honesty in these devotions will hit home with anyone who desires to know God more intimately.

—Billy Beacham
Student Discipleship Ministries and See You at the Pole

Young people and adults alike will be challenged and moved through Masey's words of encouragement and hope as they read *It's Worth It*.

—Josh McDowell

Author of 147 books, including *New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*
and *More Than a Carpenter*

I couldn't be more grateful or thankful and pleased with how Rachel was portrayed through Masey. You will receive encouragement and inspiration through this wonderful twenty-one-day journey.

—Beth Nimmo

Mother of Rachel Joy Scott

Thank you, Masey, for standing up and coming alongside students with such a strong, impactful message.

—Jay Strack

President, Student Leadership University

I know that Masey's thoughtful reflections and application will encourage all who go through this twenty-one-day encounter.

—Daryl Nuss

National Network of Youth Ministries

When you meet Masey, you can't help but smile. It is obvious Jesus lives in her.

—Mark Roberts

Vice president, First Priority of America

Young and old alike who read this book will say, "It was worth it."

—Greg Davis

President, First Priority of Alabama, and host of "Priority Talk Radio"

21-DAY
DEVOTIONAL

It's
Worth
It

Masey McLain

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Don't Settle

My name is Masey McLain, and I'm an actress who had the incredible opportunity to portray Rachel Scott in the film *I'm Not Ashamed*. Throughout my journey the Lord has taught me a lot about what it means to truly follow him. Honestly, he's still teaching me. Every day.

I wrote these twenty-one daily thoughts because I believe the message of *purpose* is too great to miss out on. You are a unique creation of God, designed to make an impact on the world, to be a force for the kingdom of God. I want to help you discover how to fully live in your calling. In this devotional, I've drawn from my own personal experiences as well as the heart-wrenching process God allowed me to experience while filming *I'm Not Ashamed*.

Sometimes it's not so easy to know or live in your purpose. Life is hard. Things get foggy, truth gets blurred, and the lists

It's Worth It

of distractions never end. I don't know about you, but I don't want to miss out on what God created me for. I don't want to settle for "just getting by." I want to make a difference.

My prayer is that this devotional will encourage, strengthen, and spur you on in your own journey of following Jesus. I hope you can relate to some of my experiences. More than anything I hope you find yourself wanting to know God more and to live in the fullness of life he has for you. I know that some of the things in here are really simple, maybe a bit "back to the basics." But I believe those things are the most crucial, and we tend to forget them the most.

I remember one day when we were headed to the set of *I'm Not Ashamed*. Executive producer, Benny Proffitt, said, "Y'know, if Rachel could tell us just one thing from heaven, standing in the presence of Jesus and experiencing the glory of God, I believe the one thing she would say is, 'It's worth it.'" I believe that too.

What I Admire Most

When I played the role of Rachel in *I'm Not Ashamed*, I was asked if I ever felt as if I were having an identity crisis or losing myself by stepping into her shoes. I usually don't get that question when I play a role, but because this time I was portraying a real person, maybe that's why it came up. Throughout filming, everyone (even off set) accidentally called me "Rachel" all the time! I didn't mind it in the least. But the answer to this question was, actually, no. I never once felt I had lost my own identity while "becoming" Rachel. I think a lot of that is because of how I was able to relate to her while portraying her. To help me do the part, I found that the Lord used experiences in my life I never dreamed he would use. I have come to believe that certain things have happened in my life in order for me to have been able to portray Rachel.

It's Worth It

When I first heard I was in the running for the part, I had a different view of Rachel than who I found her to be after reading her journals. In my mind, she was perfect. She was a martyr for Christ and did everything right. Who can live up to that?

But that was far from the truth. In reality, she was just like you and me. She was completely human and had weaknesses just like everyone else. The reason her life has made such an impact is because of her relentless pursuit of God. Even though she was not perfect by any means, she chased after the *heart* of God. And you and I have the same opportunity to seek after him: “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13).

If you want to know God more deeply; experience his intimacy, presence, and abundance; and live fully in your purpose, you must *seek* him with your *whole* heart:

The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. (Psalm 14:2 NASB)

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. (Psalm 63:1)

Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart. (Psalm 119:2 ESV)

Day 1: *What I Admire Most*

Rachel did this. Yeah, she messed up; she was confused at times, and she was just trying to figure it all out like all of us. But she decided to seek God's heart above it all, no matter what it looked like or what it cost her. And God did extraordinary things in and through her.

My favorite thing about Rachel was that she counted everything else as loss in view of knowing Jesus. She found that following him was the only thing that satisfied her soul and that was worth surrendering her entire life to.

She understood her purpose. That's what I admire most about Rachel.

I want to have a heart like that. I want to love people with a heart of compassion and see and love people as Jesus does. That's what Rachel desired. And the more she sought the heart of God, the more he changed her heart to look like his.

The most purpose-filled life comes from the deep intimacy of truly knowing God. Rachel didn't wake up one day being kind and compassionate and ready to love people and change the world. I believe all of that was an overflow of her time spent seeking to know his heart.

For all of us, that's our first step in living with purpose. Seek to know God deeply and intimately, the way you know your best friend. As you get to know him, he'll show you what sort of a life he's been dreaming for you and the way to live it.



Day 1 Challenge

Do you want to change the world and make an impact? Seek him with everything you have. Today—can you decide to do that? You don't know if you have tomorrow, but you can decide to live in your purpose today.

If you want to experience more of God, write out a prayer expressing that—nothing fancy. It doesn't have to be complicated. There's no right way or big words you have to use. Just tell him your heart—and ask to know more of his. Throughout the rest of this devotional, I'll start you out with a prayer, and you can take it from there:



Lord, I want to live in the purpose that you created me for. I want to know you more deeply and experience all that you want me to. Help me to love people the way that you love me.

Journal

It Won't Make Sense Yet

If you've ever seen the film *Inception*, I'm sure that you, like me, thought it was absolutely brilliant but completely confusing, until the very end. And even then, you probably had to watch it at least three more times to fully understand everything that was going on. Throughout the movie, I'm sure you were constantly asking the person next to you, "What's happening? Did I miss something? *I don't understand! Someone explain!*" (all while stuffing popcorn in your face because it was the only thing that really seemed to make sense). Once the movie ended and all the pieces finally connected, all you could do was sit there, mind blown (and if you're like me, think about it for at least four days after).

Sometimes life seems like that movie. Crazy, unexpected, nonsensical, painful, boring, and exciting scenes are

Day 2: *It Won't Make Sense Yet*

all happening for the sake of the story. Your favorite movie probably takes you on an emotional roller coaster ride. Sometimes you get excited; sometimes you cry. (If you watch a sad movie with me—expect weeping.) There are parts that keep you on the edge of your seat in suspense, and of course parts you want to skip because they're so boring.

We all have our own stories, each made up of different scenes and all ultimately glorifying the Author in their own unique ways.

God is so creative! *Inception* was thought up by brilliant humans. But our personal stories have been thought up by the Creator of the universe. Even more cool to think about: as he creates our stories, God doesn't mess up.

In the scenes that don't make sense, he knows exactly what's going on: “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ declares the LORD. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts’” (Isaiah 55:8–9 NASB).

In the scenes that keep us on the edge of our seats, he's doing immeasurably more: “Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:20–21 ESV).

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In the scenes where we are bored out of our minds? He knows they're necessary to the plot: "I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope" (Psalm 130:5 ESV).

And in the scenes where we can't stop crying, he never leaves us and is the hope that we can cling to: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3–4).

So what keeps us going throughout our stories? A few weeks ago in an acting class, my teacher said something I think will stick with me forever in a really special way. He said, "When you are in an audition, a director is looking for your ability to do something crucial—to live through the scene and to *stay connected* with your scene partner. The goal is to surrender yourself completely to the scene and connect with the other person. Don't lose that connection, no matter what obstacles may come up in the scene. That is where your best work will come from."

How true is this for the believer following Jesus! Our lives have so many different scenes with so many obstacles. Our goal is not to get the lines right or to impress everyone. The goal is not to do it perfectly. The goal is to *stay connected*, no matter what. No matter what comes in the highs

Day 2: *It Won't Make Sense Yet*

and lows of life, the goal is to keep our eyes on Jesus and stay connected with him.

Your story is unique. It's exciting. It's unexpected. It's unnerving. It's full of twists and turns. It's such a beautiful story that you will often look back on it in absolute wonder at what the Lord has been doing. It doesn't have to make sense now. Just stay connected.



Day 1 Challenge

It's so easy to get stuck in your circumstances and what's going on around you. Remember—this season won't last forever. This scene will end, and another one will play. Fix your eyes on Jesus throughout whatever part of your story you find yourself in today. He wants to take you to deeper levels of knowing him throughout every “scene” in your life. Wherever you find yourself today, I challenge you to refocus your heart and your mind on Jesus, trusting him as the author of your story. If life doesn't make sense right now or you're lost in trying to figure out what God's doing—that's OK. Just stay connected.



God, sometimes life gets confusing. Sometimes it just doesn't make sense, and sometimes it's painful. Help me to trust you in the scene I'm in right now. Help me to remember you're in control and show me how to keep my eyes on you.

Journal

About the Author

Masey McLain was born in Vidalia, Georgia, the third of four children born to Marty and Stephanie McLain. McLain grew up a pastor's daughter and attributes a lot of her love for the arts to her mom, who was a competitive dancer, singer, and choreographer. When McLain's family moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where her Dad would pastor a new church, Masey expressed to her parents her desire to become an actress, signed with a talent agency, and soon after booked her first commercial with Disney Channel where she had to sing for the Jonas Brothers.

Throughout high school, she continued to audition and book small guest roles in various TV series, as well as book principal commercial work. She landed her first lead role in a play when she was fifteen years old, where she won Most Outstanding Actress in her region's competition. McLain

It's Worth It

also started on the girl's basketball team at her high school as well as ran cross-country and track.

After high school, Masey went to college in the Atlanta area where she studied communications. With a musical background, she performed original songs in various coffeehouses throughout the Atlanta area and began regularly leading worship at her church. McLain made her first true mark in film when she played the lead role in her first feature film, *I'm Not Ashamed*. She continues to pursue an acting career while also communicating a message of passion and purpose to today's young people.



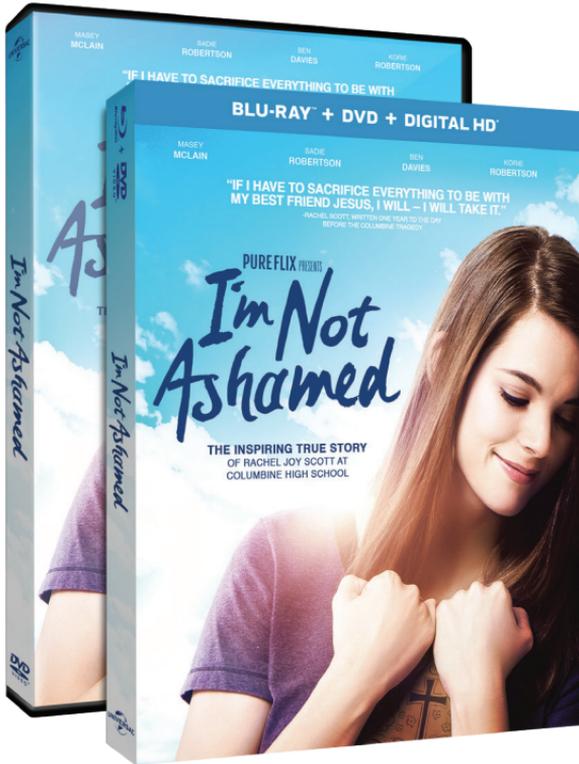
You can send a message directly to Masey McLain via her official website:

maseymclainofficial.com

She would like to know how this book, *It's Worth It*, or the film, *I'm Not Ashamed*, has made a difference in your life.

I'm Not Ashamed

Based on the true story of
Columbine High School student Rachel Joy Scott



“As the director of *Plugged In*, I see approximately 140 films per year. If I could get every teenager in the country to watch just one of the 140 films I’ve viewed in the last 12 months, hands down it would be *I’m Not Ashamed*.”

Bob Waliszewski,
Focus on the Family,
Director, *Plugged In*

Starring Masey McLain as Rachel Scott, Ben Davies (*Courageous*), Korie, Sadie, and Bella Robertson (*Duck Dynasty*), Jennifer O’Neill (*Summer of ’42*) and Jaci Velasquez (*Let the Lion Roar*).

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