"Mercy in the Margin" by Chelsey DeMatteis
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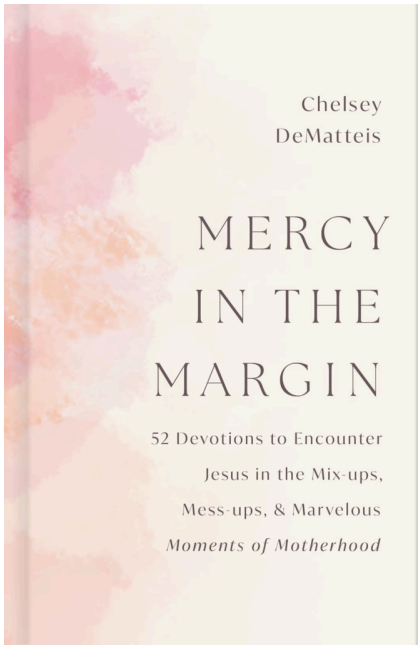
For Mothers Running on Empty: A New Devotional Reframes the Chaos of Everyday Life as Holy Ground



BRENTWOOD, Tenn., June 26, 2026—Many mothers spend their days moving from one responsibility to the next, wondering if they are doing enough while carrying the invisible weight of family life.

In "Mercy in the Margin" (B&H Publishing, August 2026), author, speaker and podcast host Chelsey DeMatteis offers a refreshing reminder: God often meets mothers not despite the interruptions, detours and messes of everyday life, but within them.

Through personal stories, biblical insight and practical encouragement, DeMatteis helps mothers recognize God's faithfulness in the middle of ordinary responsibilities and unexpected interruptions. By reframing everyday moments as opportunities to encounter Christ, she offers a fresh perspective on motherhood and spiritual growth.

DeMatteis is the author of two books, a devotional writer for several print and online magazines and host of the Living with Less Podcast.

"Mercy, motherhood and margin. Can these three really collide together beautifully? How in the world do we find mercy in motherhood when it feels like there is no margin at hand?" DeMatteis writes. "I wondered the same for a handful of years. That is, until I noticed a shift in perspective when God nudged me to look at disruptions, detours, mixups and messes as invitations to meet with Him."

Throughout the devotional, DeMatteis encourages mothers to slow down and recognize God's faithfulness in the midst of everyday responsibilities. By reframing mundane moments as opportunities to encounter Christ, she offers practical encouragement for mothers seeking peace, purpose and renewed perspective.

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Designed to be read throughout the year, the devotional reminds readers that God's grace is available not only in life's defining moments but also in the quiet spaces in between.

“When God began stirring this message in my heart, I knew moms didn't need another book telling them one more thing to do. They needed a book that would shift their perspective on what motherhood itself invites us into,” DeMatteis said. “Whether we find ourselves as brand new moms, seasoned moms, biological moms, adoptive moms or foster moms, mothering is not a season where we lose ourselves; it’s quite the contrary. It’s a season where God grows us the most and makes us even more like Him.”

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chelsey DeMatteis is a wife, mother, author and speaker passionate about helping women encounter Jesus in everyday life. She is a devotional writer for Lifeway's Journey Women magazine, Salem Media and YouVersion. Chelsey hosts the Living with Less Podcast and is the author of “Mercy in the Margin,” "More of Him, Less of Me: Living a Christ-Centered Life in a Me-Centered World" and "A Thrill of Hope." She lives in the Midwest with her husband and their two children.

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TALKING POINTS & INTERVIEW ANGLES

The Perspective Shift Every Mother Needs

Many moms see interruptions, detours, and messes as obstacles to getting through the day. DeMatteis shares how God taught her to see those moments differently—not as distractions from spiritual growth, but as places where His mercy is often most present.

Why Moms Don't Need Another Thing on Their To-Do List

In a culture full of parenting advice, productivity hacks, and pressure to do more, DeMatteis offers a different message. Mothers may not need another strategy as much as they need a new perspective on what God is already doing through everyday motherhood.

When There Is No Margin, There Is Still Mercy

Many mothers feel stretched thin by the demands of family, work, ministry, and daily responsibilities. DeMatteis discusses how God's presence is not reserved for quiet retreats or perfect routines but is available in the middle of real life.

Motherhood Isn't a Season of Losing Yourself

While culture often portrays motherhood as a season of depletion and self-sacrifice, DeMatteis explores how God uses motherhood to shape women, deepen their faith, and grow them into who He created them to be.

The Spiritual Significance of Ordinary Days

From laundry and meal prep to school pickups and bedtime routines, DeMatteis discusses why some of the most meaningful spiritual formation happens in the seemingly ordinary moments we are most tempted to overlook.

For the Mom Who Feels Lil′e She's Falling Short

Many mothers quietly carry guilt, inadequacy, and the feeling that they are never doing enough. DeMatteis offers encouragement for women who need to be reminded that God's grace meets them right where they are.

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POSSIBLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

What was happening in your own life when God first began teaching you about finding mercy in the margins of motherhood?

You write that God used disruptions, detours, mix-ups, and messes to get your attention. What changed when you began seeing those moments differently?

What do you mean by "the margins of motherhood," and why do you think so many moms feel like they have so little margin today?

Many mothers feel like they're constantly operating in survival mode. What would you say to the mom who feels exhausted and overwhelmed right now?

You say motherhood isn't a season of losing ourselves but a season where God grows us. Can you explain what you mean by that?

Why do you think so many women struggle to believe that ordinary moments matter?

Social media often makes motherhood look either picture-perfect or completely chaotic. How can mothers find freedom from comparison and unrealistic expectations?

What's one everyday moment that mothers often overlook but that God can use in a powerful way?

For the mom who feels unseen, inadequate, or like she's falling short, what encouragement would you offer today?

After spending a year with these devotions, what do you hope mothers see differently about God, themselves, and motherhood?

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