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SPEAKERS

Allison, Jeanette Rath



Allison 00:02

Hello, homemakers and welcome to The Art of home podcast where we are exploring how homemakers cultivate a place to belong one story at a time. I am your host, Allison weeks. I'm a wife. I'm a mom to four grown kids and I've been practicing the art of home for 30 years. Thanks to all our regular listeners for tuning in again. And for you new listeners. Welcome. We are so glad you found this podcast and I pray it will be an encouragement to you all. We have a great interview of a newbie homemaker for you today. But before we get to that, just a couple of reminders. Podcasting is a one way form of communication. So I wanted to make sure that there were at least a couple of other avenues to have conversations with listeners. We do have a presence on most social platforms. However, Instagram is where we are most active. So make sure that you are following us over there at the art of home podcast. And don't be shy. Please reach out. I love getting DMS from listeners telling me how the show has impacted their homemaking. It really encourages me as I continue to make episodes and think of ways to serve homemakers through the show. You can also talk to us literally by leaving a voicemail on our website. Let us know how the show is inspiring your homemaking give us your ideas for topics tell us how we could improve the show. Or just say hi, go to the art of home podcast.com/contact links are in the show notes below. Now about today's interview. I am talking with newbie homemaker Jeanette Rath. I've known Jeanette for many years, we served together in worship ministry and I've watched her blossom and grow into a delightful young woman. Jeanette carried herself with grace and faithful service through a season of singleness when about five years ago. God delighted her with the desire that she had treasured in her heart for as long as she could remember. He brought Ben into her life, and they recently celebrated their third wedding anniversary. In this conversation, we talk about genets experience of learning to keep a house while managing some physical challenges. She's learning that rest isn't earned, but as a gift from our good God. Jeanette also talks about seeing the goodness of God in the face of tragedy. Two days before we recorded this interview Uvalde, Texas the next town over from Hondo where she and Ben live suffered unimaginable loss and trauma. When a gunman opened fire in an elementary school and claimed 21 lives. She shares a little bit about how they have been able to serve the community through the prayer ministry that they host in their home. Though Jeanette hasn't been keeping a home for decades, she is keen to learn as much as she can and to treasure the everyday moments of beauty all around her. Her artistic personality comes through in this conversation. And she has some of the most

unique answers I have ever heard. She is delightful. And I know you will enjoy her colorful story of home. I'm here today with my friend Jeanette Rath and she is a newbie homemaker who we're going to talk about her experience in homemaking over the last few years. But before we do that, why don't you just introduce yourself and tell us a little bit about you. Okay,

J Jeanette Rath 03:23

my name is Jeanette Rath, I have been married to an incredible man, Ben for three years, three and a half. We grew up 25 minutes away from each other. And the Lord kept us both safe and protected. until about five or seven years ago, we discovered each other. The Lord kicked me in the behind and said, Hey, this is the man for you. And I'm so glad he did not to talk a whole bunch about my love life or anything. But I rediscovered some old journals. And I've always wanted to be married. Always wanted a home I wanted I cried routinely over having someone to clean socks for oh, and knowing been knowing what the Lord had for me. It was just incredible. I just was reading those and he was walking by and I was like Ben, like if I only knew you existed, like, Oh, I'm so grateful. So he is a worshipper. He loves the Lord, but he's one of those quiet leaders. So a year ago in April, the Lord brought us to Hondo, Texas. And he brought us here because we fell in love with this house. And now we fall in love with Hondo so I'm a full time homemaker. I am a freelance children's book illustrator. So I like to tell people my profession is making faces And the Lord has led us into prayer ministry. Cool opening our home. So, yeah, that's me.

A Allison 05:08

I'm excited. We're going to talk about all of those things. But first, let's go back to the beginning. So what you would consider, would you consider you became a homemaker when you marry Ben? No, no. Okay. Let's go back further.

J Jeanette Rath 05:23

We, our family had a really neat blessing in that my mom and my dad, they had Wyatt, when Elizabeth and I were 10 years old. Okay, so there was three of us girls. And then we were 12 and 10. And we had a new brother. So mom said, Girls, I'm retiring. Can y'all run the house? And so we were like, cool. You you've given us the tools we need, like now we're in charge. So she just laid on the couch took care of the baby. Of course, he was fine. He's graduating high school, oh, in a couple of weeks, which is amazing. But that was amazing for us to have that responsibility. And so we got a lot of skills that way. Both of my grandmas have really impacted how I keep house. I'm a lot like my grandma, Dillard. My my dad's mom, like always moving furniture and like, yeah, kind of being fussy about things. And then my mom's mom, they lived out on the farm. And I loved her the way she made her space. Beautiful. It was very simple. And it was literally she drugged things around and was clever about putting them together. And so I feel like I've really inherited that. I got to have both of them at my wedding. Oh. And then we promptly lost both of them in one year. So I very special ladies. Yeah, yeah, both love the Lord. And we got to have some really special times with them. So

A Allison 06:58

that's such that's such a treasure. I'm so glad to know that they were able to be there. I didn't realize that you lost both of them in the same year. So I'm sorry. Did you? So okay, first, let me clarify. There were three of you, girls, when your brother and I didn't know there was such a big gap between the girls and your brother. And your twin?

J Jeanette Rath 07:18

Yeah, Elizabeth.

A Allison 07:20

Yes. Yeah. So that's why. That's why you said we were 12 and 10. But you said there was three girls. I was like, well, I should probably tell them that. She's a twin. So yeah, a 12 year old and 210 year olds. Right. And y'all were in charge of taking care of your baby or taking care of the house while your mom took care of the baby brother.

J Jeanette Rath 07:36

Yes. Okay. We got the best baby doll. Yeah, but I mean, he's no baby anymore. No, man,

A Allison 07:45

and he towers staying. How tall is he? He's

J Jeanette Rath 07:47

six, four. Yeah, I had to ask him. I was like, because my dad is six, six. So

A Allison 07:53

yeah, well, all of you are pretty tall. Thank you. That's cool. Okay, so you had plenty of opportunity to learn some skills? Yes. With your sisters, under your mom's tutelage and under your grandmother's. So did you feel pretty prepared for homemaking once you got married? Now? Wait, let me go back because you had that little cottage kind of sister on your parents property before you got married. Right. I had for the

J Jeanette Rath 08:19

first one my life I own room. And Elizabeth and I, we had a house cleaning business through college. And then I worked at the coffee shop. So we, like we cleaned that was our thing. And I just I would clean and I say Lord someday I'm gonna clean my own floor. And that was my prayer. And so I love cleaning my house. Um, I don't you know, it's not like showroom sterile or

anything. But I it really is a joy to do that. Yeah. Um, for for my family. And then at the coffee shop. I probably picked up more bad habits. They're just like, impulsively like cleaning all the time. Yeah, like, are you done with that plate? I'm gonna go clean it right now. Yeah. But yeah, so I pull I feel pretty prepared and that way.

A Allison 09:12

So did you have anything in particular that was a real steep learning curve for you?

J Jeanette Rath 09:17

Time management? Yeah, is very difficult when you're a full time homemaker. And you're already struggling with, like, valuing your time. That is something I'm, I'm still in the weeds on that and like slowly coming out, because it's really easy to think, well, you know, well, that person, they have an exception. Like they're valuable because they have a child or they have an outside job or something. Yeah, I'm just like the maid. And I had to get my head out of like, something that really helped me it was thinking like Downton Abbey. I'm not Daisy. I'm the lady of this house. Yeah. And like, I get To clean the floor or whatever, yeah, and that was something I had to really pull my pull myself out of the gutter. Yeah. But that's Yeah, I think that would be the biggest struggle for me.

A Allison 10:10

I want to talk about expectations a little bit. Yeah. Okay. What were some things that surprised you, about homemaking?

J Jeanette Rath 10:20

Oh, that I wasn't gonna be perfect at it. Or like, my, my life is not static or like, everyday looks different for me. And I'm learning to embrace that. And people change. And I'm so grateful they do. Not to go back to bed. I guess whenever he's at work, I'm gonna say him, but I'm like, I'm so glad that, like he is going to change. And he's already changed. Because he's a believer. I'm a believer, the Lord is making him into something new and beautiful. And it's, it's such a pleasure to be part of that. And like, I have to turn it on myself and be like, Lord's doing that for you, too. And you're not the same person. You were at the beginning. And that's good thing. So yeah, change,

A Allison 11:12

change. That's the one thing that's constant. Yes. Is everything's always changing. Yes. Yeah.

J Jeanette Rath 11:20

First time I heard that. I was like, Oh, you're just jaded. Some really jaded guy that said it. But I ...

like it now.

A Allison 11:28

So you're learning to embrace the changes. It sounds like I am. That's good. Yeah. Being always flexible. My husband and I used to say this all the time. Semper Gumby. So you know, Gumby, the cool toy when you could like stretch him and pull him and like always Gumby always flexible. I think he learned that it works somewhere. I don't remember. But anyway,

J Jeanette Rath 11:50

I wanted to share that on a mom. She loves Gumby. Yeah. Semper Gumby.

A Allison 11:54

So were there any unrealistic expectations that you brought here with you and to this life of homemaking? Oh, yeah. Okay. So once you give us an example, like

J Jeanette Rath 12:03

Wonder Woman, like level of constancy, okay, which for some people like, like my dad was very, he's always like, loves routines incredible at it. I am not built that way. Yeah. That's always been hard for me, because I thought I should. So I've been really watching where I want to say should yeah, I should do this, I should do that. Right. I heard something really beautiful. So being a, I don't know, I don't know how many generations of my family are gardeners. I just said, Okay, I volunteer myself as being a garden. And the Lord has been slowly giving me opportunities to grow that. And I just love how gardening is so forgiving. And I try to avoid reading what the internet has saved by gardening, because there's so many rules. I heard Shay Elliot on homemaker. She said everybody garden is different. And that was just always the permission I needed. Yeah. Because I'm out there. And I've always perennial. So you know, early spring, I'm moving things around, you know, dig it up, put it somewhere, see if it lives, okay. It didn't like it's a lot of experimentation. Yeah. And so freeing myself from this is what you should do to this is what you can do. And this is what you can do is like, that's what I needed. And that's just, that's just me, I'm very out of the box.

A Allison 13:36

Well, you are an artist. And artists tend to think differently about things. So yeah. So would you say that that mindset is maybe starting to seep into the house and not just in the garden?

J Jeanette Rath 13:49

It's always been, I think, because I had my own space for that amount of like, two years or something. I got to I there was absolutely nobody who cared about what I was how I was living. And that made that part of it really simple to transition. Because Ben was like, Well, I you know

And that made that part of it really simple to transition. Because Ben was like, well, I you know, if you want to move furniture around, like, that reminds me that I have a creative wife and what come home from work, and Yeah, something's moved. It's like, oh, just nuts. Having fun. Yeah. And I was like, thank you. I grew up in a family where it was like, oh, no, she's moving furniture. Yeah, except that couch. I'm not going to move that kind of just, it looks

A Allison 14:35

pretty heavy. Really, really heavy. Well, okay, so how about your priorities? We know that we need our priorities to be in a certain order. As believers, right, we want to make sure that we put God first because if he's not first than everything else, doesn't even matter, and it's certainly not going to work out. Yeah. So what are some practical steps that you take to keep your priorities in order and set your priorities because you mentioned that you struggled a little bit with valuing your time as a homemaker and feeling like, well, you know, their time is more valuable or whatever, and just really getting what what are some things that you're practically doing to help help yourself in that area?

J Jeanette Rath 15:22

Well, I have my planner. Okay. Um, I used to just have scraps of paper, where I wrote things on it. Yeah. But the planner is a record, which I really like records. I like records too, but like, this is a recording of my life. She likes vinyl

A Allison 15:41

records, but she also likes keeping records and eternal brain. Yeah, it's my brain.

J Jeanette Rath 15:47

Yeah. Um, and so I write things down and seeing it in paper, looking right back at you, is really good. But I like to look at it as my plan. My c, what would it be? It would be your plan B. Okay. Because Plan A is what happens. Yeah, sometimes you get interrupted, believe it or not everybody gets interrupted. Just holding things loosely. But having them in black and white. For me. It's always been just a good reminder. Yeah. And when my when I start to feel unrested that's when I realize something's out of whack. And I can go weeks thinking that things are fine. Yeah, you kind of get to a point where it's not working out anymore. And then it's time to it's time to sit with yourself. And so I have all through all through my life, I would sit down and say what woman do I want to be? And it's this, it's almost the same list. All through my life. It's insane. And so I have these constant goals. That I know that must be from the Lord because it's, you know, it's 12 year old Jeanette. It's 18 year old Jeanette.

A Allison 17:02

Oh, interesting. It is.

J Jeanette Rath 17:03

And it's the same three lists. It's like, I want to be an artist, sir. I want to, you know, make places beautiful, or I want, you know, one of my biggest goals is like, I want my gravestone to say she was loved by everyone who knew her. Oh, and that's just a big deal to me. It's it's all those like sappy songs. Gordon Lightfoot. So let's get really cryptic.

A Allison 17:32

So you're you're learning to put it down on paper but not be a slave to the schedule. I like the way you put that, that it's almost like your plan B because this plan A is what actually happens. And yeah, that's part of that Semper Gumby. Yeah. mentality. Be be willing to just hold your plans loosely.

J Jeanette Rath 17:51

I'm not great at the slave thing. I mean, it's really easy to just drive drive drive like, Well, I was gonna vacuum that room to. I can't I can't sit down now. And I have to give up the concept that rest is earned. Rest is a gift and rest is necessary. Yeah. And when I start to lose my crate, creativity is when I realized tired people can't create.

A Allison 18:20

So that's very wise.

J Jeanette Rath 18:24

Wise people have spoken into my life. That was my guitar teacher.

A Allison 18:29

Oh, cool. Cool. What is a special challenge that you have faced in your homemaking? And how are you working through that challenge to adapt and grow? And maybe what's something that you're thankful for about that challenge?

J Jeanette Rath 18:45

You know, every family has their generational type of problem that's passed down. And in our family, we have scoliosis. So I watched my dad deal with it. He he's doing really well now. I mean, he takes great care of himself physically, but he had a very difficult time when I was about 13 or something. And I just told God, one day, I was like, two things. I don't want chronic

pain in a crooked face. Oh. Well, a few years later, my dad discovered I had scoliosis, and then he just suffered, Katie had it. And my parents went over time, they were like, we're gonna we're gonna make sure you guys have what you need.

A

Allison 19:33

Can you before we go on? Can you maybe explain what scoliosis is just sort of like a brief?

J

Jeanette Rath 19:39

Yeah, so scoliosis is a term spine. It comes in all different flavors. Basically, it's it's curved. Your spine is curved and it can rotate. Okay, you can be rotated. There are all kinds of crazy cases where people have spinal issues. Oregon issues and everything, my mom, and here's, here's where my mom really shines. It has over the years, I have realized what a gift she gave to me and Katie, and that she constantly was searching for ways for us to build our muscles to give our bodies what we needed. As I've been getting older, I've been going to physical therapy, and my goal is to stay active, stay healthy, rather than, you know, start off with a surgery. Yeah, um, if I need to do a surgery, I want to be prepared to do that. But I do believe I have more options at this point. We've wanted to, I've wanted to just take control of my health or responsibility. That's been my view, because of the exercise because of the work that my sister and I did the therapy that we did, or young. We have, we can listen to our bodies in a way a lot of people can't write. And I want to keep that as long as I can. But just the pressures of like running a house, keeping up with cleaning and just being busy. And that Superwoman complex. I've honestly come to an end of myself far more often than I thought I would at this age. Yeah. And I've been struggling with a lot more stiffness and soreness and it's frightening. It's terrifying. It in fear and mobilizes you. So I've had to remind myself that God has given me grace. And, um, Paul was so thankful that he was in such need every day, and we don't know what Paul's reborn in the side was right. But when Lord told him My grace is sufficient for you. He said, we'll then follow that up with then more gladly, well, I cherish what I have.

A

Allison 22:20

Yeah.

J

Jeanette Rath 22:22

That's kind of that's been my life first. And I didn't quote it correctly, but that vs definitely shaped so many seasons of my life. And all my guys, you. I know the Lord can heal me. Yeah, he's chosen not to at this time. Doesn't mean he will not change his mind. But my husband has always been supportive of how I look. Even it is definitely just made me all wonky. And I will never forget the day he told me like, I like a symmetrical things. And I was like, what? Because I'm an artist, I've studied Yeah, human figure. And I'm like, God made a beautiful thing. And then I'm the one that doesn't get to have that, you know? Yeah. So that's, that's a whole nother story, just like how I view myself. And that's why I have to be so careful with social media. Oh, yeah. And I'll see myself in the reflection. And I'm like, oh, but that's, that's where we're at. And just honoring what the Lord has given me just, you know, doing stretches and being like, God,

thank you so much. Like, look at all these things my body can do, right? Look like taking a deep breath. It's not, not everyone can do those scoliosis. But one thing I want to definitely throw in is, every therapist that has seen me has acknowledged that yes, you have a very crooked back. I have three curves, because each, the main curve will create two extras, you know, okay. The biggest curve in my lower bag is 80 some odd degree curve. So it's, it's insane. When I think about it, I'm like, am I going to die? Like, am I gonna snap and have like, what is happening? Wow, that doesn't make sense. But people will say the therapists that have looked at me, they'll say, girl, your shoulders are level, your pelvis is level like you. Your organs are fine. You can take a deep breath, you have incredible mobility. And I just thank God for what my mom did. And I know that was a hard season for her. I mean, she suffered so much, but she was faithful with what the Lord is laying on her heart. And that gave me the foundation I needed physically. And I can, you know, I can look forward and say, I don't need to shy away from anything. Yeah, there At times when I want to, like to discount myself from a difficult life, but you know having, if I may say chronic pain as a young person. I'm always going to, I'm always going to deal with pain differently than others. And I have to take other people's stories of pregnancy and childbirth and running around with toddlers, I have to take every one of those with a grain of salt. Because it's gonna be different for me. Yeah. And I don't want. I don't want to disqualify myself from anything the Lord has for us, right. That's a whole nother story. For a girl that didn't think a lot about being a mom, that I can remember. The Lord has been definitely growing mother's heart and me. Just through different pets, his partner like, yeah, the Lord brought a small ferret into our lives two years ago and just did an incredible healing work by giving me something that needed help. Oh, and, and then he brought us quickly, it was another rescue our little German Shepherd.

A

Allison 26:12

Yeah, he's not little. Now, but He's so gentle and awesome. He's just asleep here at our feet. Yep. He's a gentle giant.

J

Jeanette Rath 26:22

Yes. I guess he is a giant Lord has just been so gracious. So I'm like, you know, Lord, if you've got a little someone with our names on him, on her, he's given me a vision for, for children. And I'm like, You know what? That's, you know, you do you because, you know, when you can't get off the floor, your own body weight is just too much. Yeah. When it feels like it's too much. I don't want to be a slave to fear though. I don't want to, I don't want to step out of life, because I'm afraid of what it might do to me. And, you know, we do have an enemy that wants us to, to bow out. Absolutely, man. I don't want to do that. Yeah. So. So yeah, I guess that's what I'm

A

Allison 27:12

thankful for. In the in the trial? Yeah. Yeah, that's good.

J

Jeanette Rath 27:16

So my house is not, I always, you always think, you know, if I didn't have this, if I could keep going. Wow, my life would be awesome. My life would be really cool. Like, I could make all

going, wow, my life would be awesome. My life would be really cool. Like, I could make all these meals, I could learn how to do all this stuff. But no, I can't. I have to bring it back and say,

A Allison 27:38

It's so interesting, though, that you have that perspective, because a lot of what women struggle with in the home is not acknowledging our limitations. Because we have functioning bodies without any thing hindering that necessarily, you know, not a situation like what you have where I can literally run myself into the ground, just doing more and doing more and doing more instead of recognizing No, I have limits. And God gave me those limits as a gift. I just think your perspective is pretty amazing.

J Jeanette Rath 28:12

Well, I can run myself to the ground too. It just, it doesn't take as much running. Exactly. Exactly. And so it's like, you know what, if I need to Peace out, it's okay. That the world would be there when I get up. And by God's grace, I can learn to rest well,

A Allison 28:30

let's talk a little bit about hospitality. Because I know this is something that you're passionate about. And we have some things to say about that. What are some practical ways that you show hospitality through homemaking?

J Jeanette Rath 28:42

I like having a clean house for people to come in beautiful house. Then helped me mow the yard for you. Oh, I love that he he doesn't so many men don't understand this need for beauty. And he is he's like, Okay, I know that you I know that you want to have a beautiful home. Even he had a dream about me winning a contest for like, the most beautiful home but also the most lived in me. Well, the beautiful part was you and the lifting part was me. And I was like, Oh, we both won an award. So this morning, I was like, I can't vacuum again. I'm too tired. And he said, Well, Elsie needs to know we live

A Allison 29:32

in. Yes, yeah.

J Jeanette Rath 29:35

What was your question? I got distracted. That's okay.

A Allison 29:40

My question was, what are some practical ways that you show hospitality and you did start to answer it. I mean, you said you like for it to be beautiful when people come here, and even mowing the grass is important to you. And so having something to drink yes, that you are the first person to offer me tea. Wait, would it be tea? Really? What do we drink? It's okay. So it's a it's a syrup. I think it's a syrup made. Rose of Sharon flowers, chemical flowers. Did you know this people that you can make? Probably tea, or you can extract this syrupy, it's like then it's like you're extracting the nectar. When you boil it, when you boil it in water, and it makes this kind of thick, sweet liquid, and then she poured it into glass. And then she poured some very flavored sparkling water overtop of it. And

J Jeanette Rath 30:34

it's delicious. It is delicious. Life changing.

A Allison 30:37

We might have to share the recipe, if anybody happens to have Rose of Sharon trees in their yard, which are biblical trees, biblical trees. Yes. But that was so sweet that you did that for me. And gave me some flowers to take home and try it myself excited. And I hope you don't have to take the bugs with you. But well, that's okay. Maybe they'll strain out in the water when I make the thing. Okay, but tell me about prayer group. That's what I want to hear about.

J Jeanette Rath 31:02

So Ben, and I get to Hondo. And we're like, you know what, we don't feel super alone. Because, you know, everybody's been alone for two years.

A Allison 31:12

And right. COVID. So you got married in 19.

J Jeanette Rath 31:16

We got married early 19. And, like, community just changed. Yeah, we got married. And suddenly we didn't fit in. It was so weird. So many of our groups were part of disbanded. Crazy. And well, that's okay. We're married. Yeah, no, it's not. You still need community when you're married, especially when you're newly married. But a lot of people life change, you get new friends, you know. Soon as we come to Honda, we're like, Finally, community. First rattle out of the box, I connected with St. Paul's Lutheran, and talk to Joanne at the desk and immediately found out that she was related to the family who own this house. And so like, that was a huge blessing to have friends immediately. But the Lord was like, hey, hey, I want I want y'all to have a prayer meeting at your house, and Genet. I want you to do the music. And I was like, Okay, so we're like the new kids in the block. And we're like, Hey, we're opening our home. There's still mute, like moving boxes. Yeah. And you know, it was it was hard. Like, there's a lot of times

where it's just being been so slowly, like figuring this out. Meanwhile, the Lord gives us an incredible gift. The Lord has brought our very best friends to live in Hondo. What. I've never heard of a fairy story like it. Oh, I don't know how many times I asked the Lord. If my friend Mary Dixon, could be my neighbor. Oh, and now she is that they live on our street. That's amazing. And they have been ministering with us at our prayer meeting a lot of times just the four of us. But there's such. There's so many believers here that are ready for prayer. That's about as far as I know. I just know. The Lord told me, I have to be obedient. I have to be faithful. And that's sacrifice sometimes. Yeah. But that's all I can give him. Smile obedience, and my faithfulness. And he uses it.

A

Allison 33:27

So how have you seen him use that in the last 48 hours.

J

Jeanette Rath 33:33

We've been hearing about the world fall apart, for as long as anyone has been alive. And in the last few years. It's been insane. But 48 hours ago. Our neighbors and Uvalde suffered an incredible tragedy, someone from their own town. gone down in the elementary school. There, there are no words to describe something like this to a small town. Especially because it it wasn't a war where there were armed soldiers. These were innocent ones. These were little ones. And there's been an awakening and Han note. Christians who may be the Lord has been stirring their hearts. I have watched so many people find their humanity again. Through a horrible way. These are broken devastated hearts. But it's incredible in the spiritual realm. There's been people move to start prayer initiatives. The Lord is connecting people who are hungry for prayer and these are things that Ben and I have had on our hearts to so we're right in there with him. Like you may not know me but We're here. And yesterday evening, the last two evenings, I've gotten to join some prayer warriors. And yesterday, we got to hold signs on 90, the main road, which is the connecting highway between the valley in San Antonio. And there's still a lot of Salvation Army and just people that are there for the aftermath. And we're able to minister to some people who needed prayer and I have never seen, it's like my eyes have been open to the power of prayer. In a way that hasn't before, because there's absolutely nothing else we can do. I can see. It's not the last thing that you grab for when you're searching for an event. It's the first thing and it's out of that, that the Lord raises his army of responders. It makes me so grateful to serve a God who never lets any pain go to waste. Yeah, he is a good God. And he he can redeem anything. So that's where that's where we're fighting. That's what we're station. I'm finding my worship voice again. Yeah. That's been a journey. And it's just, it's been cool.

A

Allison 36:31

Thank you for sharing that. Okay, let's go into a time of rapid fire questions. What is your biggest homemaking fail? So far?

J

Jeanette Rath 36:42

Are you telling me just say one

are you telling me just say one,

A Allison 36:44

you can say whatever you would like, Oh,

J Jeanette Rath 36:45

good, because I'm not going to answer this rapidly. So Ben got really mad. He didn't get really mad, but I was like, Where do I begin? I fail every day. Every moment there are failures. But it's okay. Because what happens when you're experimenting anyways? Yeah. you wade through the failures. And you know, I don't cry anymore. When I burn. When I burn the food of tricks I take. I remember what my mom did take the burn food in the pot, and you take it outside, close the door, and let it go off. And then you start planning your next meal immediately. Don't wait. Everything's gonna experiment. When we moved here, I was in over my head. I thought it was homemaker and then I was in over my head. It was so much. Yeah. Don't even talk about the internet. We had a scammer internet company. And it was painful. First time I lost us some money. Oh, no. And my mom said, this is the first time you will lose money. She was like you will lose money. You will get money. You will learn from your mistakes and you will make a new mistake, you know? And I was like, It's okay. You know, homemaking is not a pass or fail. That has been my mantra. Because failing is something that has become my friend.

A Allison 38:13

Okay, well, how about a recent homemaking when something you've done that you're proud of?

J Jeanette Rath 38:18

So I asked Ben, because I was like, Hey, honey, tell me how great I am. And he goes, look around. Oh, and I looked around. I'm like, what? He's like, Jeannette, look around. You picked up carpet off the ground. It looks great. There's wood floor. It's beautiful. Okay, you painted the wall. It's beautiful. Every time it was it was beautiful. It's beautiful. And I guess because of my philosophy, I'm failing. It kind of messed with my philosophy on wins, too. But I'm, I want to celebrate my wins. Yeah, I really do. Being that we've only been in Hondo. A little over a year. And we're part of a vibrant community that loves the Lord from different churches, as well as being members at one of them. And we regularly open our home. And we already have a dog like so many little things. I can celebrate those as wins. Yeah, I think so.

A Allison 39:31

Absolutely. What about your favorite homemaking hack? Or tip?

J Jeanette Rath 39:38

You can all start over. You can always go take a shower, make another cup of coffee. Whatever you need to do. Yeah, I'm not a big snapper, but I'm trying to learn how I can start over. Still learning I will let you know later when I find out,

A Allison 40:04

okay, good. Well, I want to talk about the art of home. But before we get into the specific questions, I want to talk about your art. Because I know you're an artist. And I just want to hear a little bit about that as an outlet for you. And what do you do and tell us tell us about your art

J Jeanette Rath 40:23

doing? So I always artist, always, always drawing. So when people go, oh, like, how long did it take you to draw that? 25 years? Yeah. Right. I'm married Ben. And I was I was tired of being introduced as the newlywed. So one time, someone I did not know what she did. She said, What do you do? And I said, I'm a children's book illustrator, which was not true at the time. That was what I wanted to do. And she said, Oh, cool. I have a publishing company. Oh. Also, we have manuscripts about talking trees, and I went, I can draw talking trees. That was also a falsehood. But, you know, once you say a lie like that, you're just you just bluff your way through. So my friend Mira, that is my neighbor and my friend. She and I actually became friends because she wrote a children's chapter book in which I drew the pictures years ago. So I had a published book. So I met Tammy and her beautiful story about talking trees. And singing lemons. We published Levi and the weeping willow, just part of the series. Okay. And that was summer of 2019.

A Allison 41:57

I was gonna say it was right after you got married because I got to see some of the artwork when I visited you. Yes, at your apartment.

J Jeanette Rath 42:03

Yes, I did that in the apartment. And it was followed by Tami's daughter had a story about cowboy the bird who finds a new home. And then I followed that with Celebration Day, which is again about Levi and squirt the lemon and just incredible storytellers. I got my first hardback done while we were moving to Hondo by Shauna Stricklin the case of the night sneaker. Very exciting. Meanwhile, my friend Mira is working on an incredible manuscript. Over time, I got to finally illustrate her manuscript that I might live. And it's an incredible it's a fictional story about a young woman, a young girl in France during World War Two, he was a Jewish descent. It's a story of the people around her that helped her survive those times. The newest news is Jeanette has a manuscript now. Yay. So I'm slowly working through my illustrations, but okay. Yes, I'm very excited about my own picture book is going to be enormous,

A Allison 43:23

enormous. Yes.

J Jeanette Rath 43:25

The pictures are going to be enormous. Okay. I mean, it's gonna be like, normal mount of pages. But right. I'm packing them full of beautiful pictures. Now. I'm excited. And I was scared to but

A Allison 43:39

Well, gotta do scary things. Because you don't know. If you hold back. Yeah, I'll never know. Yeah, that is so exciting. I'm thrilled for you. So we'll make sure we link stuff in the show notes to find you and find these great books that are already published. So how does how does being an artist help you see, homemaking as an art

J Jeanette Rath 44:02

in drawing? proportion and form is paramount. That's why I start pictures with my circle scribble stuff. So being able to see things, I have a very particular way of how I want things to look. And so this house therefore has become a playground for me. And that's why I'm always moving things around because I need to see them for a while. But so design wise, yeah, very much. It's so much in common with drawing. No, we don't take down walls or anything around here. I like my odd circular house. Very, in very distinct rooms. No open concept. Very old. Not very old. Original part of the house was built in 1935.

A Allison 44:54

Yeah, that's pretty old.

J Jeanette Rath 44:57

Old for Texas. I'll put it that way.

A Allison 44:58

It is all for Texas and In over America, it's almost 100 years old. It is

J Jeanette Rath 45:04

until you meet someone from New England, right? Oh,

A Allison 45:00

A Allison 45:08

and then they and then they meet somebody from Europe. And they're like, come on. We have a lot of listeners in Europe, and they're laughing right now. So how do you find beauty in the midst of that mundane work that we do have to do as homemakers. And where do you where do you look for beauty in those places. monotonous work,

J Jeanette Rath 45:31

I've memories of my life where I stopped, stop, just absorb, take a picture. And I look back on those in their treasures. And it may have been a difficult time, but I don't care may have been walking up the stairs type of time, you know, it's like an arrest where you stop and you just remember. And I feel like I have this little book of pictures that I can go through in my mind. And every place I've lived, has its own book of pictures. I don't want to focus so much on my past, I want this time of my life, to have more everyday memories than in the past. Because I know how precious they are finding just the right place to put my chair. So the sun comes in in the morning or you know, my husband has been working night shift a lot. And he goes in at one and comes back at like two or something. So it's not. It's not for both nightshift. But I have all these flowers on my patio that are called for clocks, because they bloom at 4pm. And they have flowers all night. And it's a reminder to me that even I get something beautiful to look at while everyone else is asleep. I miss my mornings. We both do. It is hard. But the Lord hasn't forgotten us. So I got a little night bloomer. She hasn't been making blooms yet. But that's her job. Get us through night shifts. So

A Allison 47:28

I love that. So do you. So you stick with his schedule? Kind of you kind of try to keep to his schedule, or

J Jeanette Rath 47:35

it's very difficult. Yeah, do that. That is something I'm working on is finding some kind of currency for myself. Because, yeah, it's difficult to match it to his his day ends up being 1314 hours, just because he drives he commutes to Lackland in 45 minutes each way. And then it's a 10 hour shift. Yeah. And we're grateful. We're grateful for his work.

A Allison 48:00

But yeah,

J Jeanette Rath 48:02

it is for a time and that time will change. Yep. And there will be new,

A Allison 48:07

A Allison 48:07
new schedule. So new schedule, different challenges, different challenges,

J Jeanette Rath 48:11
change that constant thing.

A Allison 48:13
Why is gratitude important? In homemaking

J Jeanette Rath 48:18
every time, I remember to say thank you. It takes a black and white world in terms of the color. It's as close as I can get to a Midas touch. It changes everything. I think that is the moment where I have my little snapshot taken that memory is when I stop and say this is beautiful. We live in such a broken terrifying world. But the Lord has so much grace for those of us are living in it. So I want to treasure those in my heart. How can

A Allison 48:57
older women support you in your homemaking? What is something you wish that they knew about your experience?

J Jeanette Rath 49:06
I've thought about this a lot. And I have a lot of friends that are older than me and I forget all the time. I rounded up their ages and I realize all of them are twice my age at least. Except mirror mirrors my age. I think it's easy to look at my generation. So all those girls are so young and young and chic. They've got it together the cool. I had someone stopped me in the parking lot at Walmart. Oh wish I was young and cool again. It was because I was wearing a hat that's all. That's all I was like not feeling cool that day and I just turned around went, oh God. She was only 10 years older than me. I maybe I passed off for 18 I don't know we're not all cool and chic and put together as we look. But we work really hard to keep up the illusion and I just want to break it to all of my Sweet friends, don't buy the lie. We want to be part of your life. I have a few friends out here that have just, I have one friend in particular shout out Cynthia. She just lets me into her life and she just comes into mind. And we're she's like, she's like my mom and Hondo. She'll bring me soup when I'm sick. I have other friends. And if I start saying names, I'm gonna leave someone else. So I better stop.

A Allison 50:30
You all know who you are?

J Jeanette Rath 50:31

Know who you are. I treasure my friends that are in a different life stage. Because their gift from God. Yeah. So don't my word would be don't don't be scared off by the fact that we will maybe take pictures to make ourselves look like supermodels.

A Allison 50:57

I love your answer so much. Because it's so true. I mean, I'm almost 50 And I'm looking at this younger generations meme. Like, I never looked that good one I never had that. I was never that together. Or like you said she are sophisticated looking. I just wasn't there. I was not there when I was their age. So thank you for shattering we.

J Jeanette Rath 51:25

We we have to Yeah, I feel the pressure. But I'm taught. I wear linen now. And it wrinkles. And I love it. Because it's a lot of work. And yeah, it's just a lie. For a lot of people. I do want to be beautiful. I do want to take care of myself, but not at the expense of the truth. So that's what we need you we all we all need you. Don't be scared off. I was scared of my, my own generation actually. Like, how can you be friends with her? She's so cool. And then they said you're cool. You know? What?

A Allison 52:11

No, no, see, everybody just thinks everybody else is cooler than them. And we just all need to stop doing that.

J Jeanette Rath 52:19

Well, it's okay to it's no, it's perfectly fine to be like You're cool. But know who they are.

A Allison 52:24

Yeah. Well, thank you for your honesty. So let's talk to the younger woman. What advice would you give to a younger woman coming behind you whether she's just got engaged, or married or maybe even younger, and she's still in that place that you were in for a while? Sort of having a desire for that, but waiting? What would you tell her?

J Jeanette Rath 52:47

I can't speak to a lot of things. I'll speak in my experience. I had never met anyone like, who I wanted to have a life with. And, you know, I thought I did so many times. Yeah. When I take stock of what the Lord has given me now, that is my reality. I realize the desires he gave me

were not to tease me. Yeah. They were for me. And they were from him. And I just, you, you, you hold them in your hearts. And if you can, you put them in a physical place as a reminder. Because they're just as as, as important as those stones of remembrance that the Israelites had. It is a remembrance. I used to think desires were wasted somehow because they weren't real. But they were. I know now that they were because now I'm living the reality. Yeah. And the Lord gave gave so much. So that's what I would say to them. In this. Not everyone, it's marriage. For me it was illustrating children's books. That was like such a random thing. I don't think I ever asked the Lord to do it because I just didn't even think like, Would you ask for it. But as a child, I had my favorite children's books, and I wanted to be part of it. I wanted to be part of making something that was nothing. And does something incredible and original.

A Allison 54:34

Yeah. I'm seeing a very cool parallel here between what what you just said about creating children's books and wanting to be a part of creating, taking something that was nothing and creating something beautiful and original and creative. And that's exactly what we do in our homes. Yeah, you know, you take something that God puts together, this husband and this wife and create something that wasn't there before. And just makes this beautiful, original, amazing story. So you know

J Jeanette Rath 55:09

that Loggins and Messina song, Danny song. That line. Now there is a family where there once was none just gets me every time. Yeah, I love it. It's like an empty house is just the house. When people live there, it becomes a home, right? The gift I want to give my family is a home, not a house. I don't want my husband to come home from work and see a bunch of the things that Jeanette wants him to get done. I want him to come home. I want him to put his feet up. And a lot of husbands have very trying jobs. And my husband's no exception, but because I've chosen to give him a home. He wants to help build it with me.

A Allison 55:59

It's a beautiful home. And a thank you for having me in it. And thank you for sharing your story of home with us. Really appreciate it.

J Jeanette Rath 56:08

Thank you. I'm glad you got to come visit me. Yes, me too.

A Allison 56:11

I hope you have enjoyed this homemaker portrait of Jeanette Raff. Whether you are dealing with physical pain, like a chronic illness, or emotional pain from trauma or loss. I think these words are so thoughtful and encouraging. Jeanette said, I'd like to discount myself from a difficult life. But I don't want to step out of life because I'm afraid of what it might do to me.

Fear immobilizes you fear not is in the Bible 365 times, once for each and every day of the year, my friend. No matter what life holds, God goes before you and he hems you in from behind. Raising kids in this world is scary. Exchanging two incomes for one so you can stay home is scary. Facing a diagnosis is scary. But God says Do not fear for I am with you. Do not be dismayed. For I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Hold on to him homemakers. He is faithful. He is just he is good. And he never lets any pain go to waste. Thank you for listening today. I pray you have been encouraged and inspired by this episode. We will be back next week. With a deep dive into the art of how we use words in the home. It's going to be great. Don't forget to say hi over on Instagram, or leave me a voicemail with your thoughts or suggestions. I would love to hear from you. If you have found value in this or any episode of The Art of home podcast, and you'd like to give the show a little love. There's a few different ways that you can do that. And we appreciate them all. First off, share this episode with someone you know who could use some encouragement and her practice of the art of home. Secondly, you could leave us a rating and a review on your listening app. And finally, you can leave us a tip through our virtual Tip Jar buy me a coffee just go to [buy me a coffee.com/the art of home](https://www.buymeacoffee.com/theartofhome). You can give in \$5 increments as little or as much as you would like every little bit counts it helps to offset the cost of producing this podcast. Thank you so much. Until next time, keep practicing your art of making a home