



I recently had a fall. Why? Answer - because I was rushing. A carrier bag had blown out of my basket and into the middle of the road. I checked to see as there was no traffic then hobbled into the road to pick up the bag. Just as I was about to pick it up, another gust of wind came and blew it a bit further along the road and by this time a car had arrived and the driver had patiently stopped and waited – mind you, since I was in the middle of the road he had not really much choice! I again went to pick up the bag and another gust of wind took part in the action again. I eventually managed to reach the bag and noticed that there were now about five cars waiting. I hurriedly picked up the bag and turned to make my way back to the pavement and the next moment was lying flat on the road. I was fortunate to get away with no broken bones, only a twisted knee, but also, quite shaken up by the event.



Have you noticed that, generally speaking, we often trip or fall when we are in a hurry and not fully concentrating on our movements. The same applies to things that we drop or other similar incidents. One day I put a saucepan of milk on the gas ring to the boil and whilst I was waiting, I stood gazing out of the window viewing my lovely little garden. I am afraid my thoughts were not at all on the milk until I suddenly heard it rising up in the saucepan. I quickly turned and went to grab the pan off the ring, in order to avoid having to clean the milk off the cooker, and in so doing knocked a four pint tub of milk off the unit and onto the floor. What a mess! Unfortunately milk does not drop into a nice neat pile but seems to have the ability to cover most of the floor and to splash up onto the doors of the units as well.



When we slow down and take our time over things we are not as likely to have accidents or falls. My thoughts turned to God and Christmas. I wonder why God waited so long before sending Jesus to the earth? He knows everything so even before He created people He knew what they were going to be like, not only collectively but also as individuals. He knew that He would have to have a particular plan that would enable people to constantly renew their relationships with Himself during their lives and to be in His presence in Heaven when their time on earth came to an end. Why did He wait? The world was in a pretty bad state long before Jesus arrived but for some reason He chose to wait. We do not always understand why God does or allows certain things, but we know that whatever He plans is perfect. His methods are perfect. His timing is perfect. I think that God constantly shows us to 'slow down', but we do not always take the time to do this.



As Christmas approaches our speed often gathers momentum. We try to cram all of the extra jobs into an already overloaded time schedule. Presents, visits, card writing, extra baking and trying to finish off particular jobs before the end of the year. I suppose that one of the main reasons why we end up rushing around is because we often tend to leave things to the last minute instead of starting our plans a little earlier. We can often decide that next year we will be a little more organized, but..... **SLOW DOWN**. Make choosing gifts a pleasure rather than an 'I must do this.' Write your cards a bit earlier and add a personal sentence onto your greeting. Make God's method your own and take your time over the Christmas preparations.





One of the main problems with Christmas is that Jesus often gets pushed out amid all of the hustle and bustle. He is much more important than anything we are going to do at Christmas. The main point is not the turkey, a party or a gift. In God's perfect plan Jesus is meant to be the central focus. How can a slice of turkey or a bottle of perfume be more important than the arrival of Jesus? Christmas is celebrated for a few days but Jesus is our Saviour permanently, every day that we are drawing breath. **SLOW DOWN**. Have a think about the importance of His arrival – about the purpose of His arrival - about the results of His arrival. Why did God wait so long? We don't know. Why did God's plan include a little baby rather than all the pomp and majesty of a mighty king? We don't know. He is a perfect God who has given us a perfect plan of salvation. **SLOW DOWN** and enjoy Christmas, but also, set aside time to think about Jesus.

*Jesus is the reason for the
season*