

I am Robin Marie and this is a podcast for those who do things differently.

Fear of the unknown has kept me from being myself. Fear of rejection, of looking like a fool in front of everybody but in today's episode I share about a girl who didn't let fear stop her. She did things differently on purpose.

Listen in

I remember the first day I met her. A young woman with so much confidence! She knew just what she needed and told me so. I will call her Suzie to protect her identity.

I was Suzie's aid and she was legally blind. But this teenage girl taught me what it meant to embrace being different.

She wouldn't let her differences stop her.

She sang in the school choir. Telling me all she needed was to have the lyrics blown up. Our running joke was the bigger the better.

She joined the school track team. Using her teammates as guides and following the BIG white lines as she ran in circles around the track. She was more attuned to her surroundings than most people I know with eyesight.

And then one day Suzie insisted she wanted to Pole vault!

Yep, you heard that right, Pole vault!

I say insisted because that's what she did, you couldn't tell Suzie she couldn't do something.

She was like a square peg that refused to be shoved into that round hole.

I asked her one day "Suzie. Aren't you afraid you will fall?" and she responded with something that has stuck with me ever since.

"You can't fear what you can't see."

“You can’t fear what you can’t see.”

What?

This concept was counterintuitive for me. I had always feared what I couldn’t see. But this young woman who by the way went on to attend law school, only saw hopeful possibilities.

Oh she failed at times, but she got back up and did it again. She was not afraid to do hard things.

She bravely faced her challenges with confidence knowing that she was created to be different. And even though her world was becoming darker and darker by the minute she allowed the light of hope into the corners of her mind.

She refused to allow others to define her. She didn’t do it perfectly and got frustrated when things didn’t work out like she had planned.

Let me tell you it took a lot of convincing the administration of that school to allow a blind girl to pole vault?.

I’ve lost touch with Suzie over the years but she made a difference in my life. She showed me how to move forward. She showed me how to throw myself into the air and trust that even with my unique differences God would carry me over that pole.

My prayer is that you will remember Suzie when you are afraid to be different.

Suzie the girl who was free to be herself. Free to fly high with all her differences. Embracing who she was made to be.

Again, I’d like to quote one of my favorite local poets Morgan Harper Nichols;

<https://morganharpernichols.com/>

“You are FREE to move around the room, to paint the walls a new color and declare there is more to you.”

There is MORE to you! MORE that the world needs to see. You were made in the image of God.

Don’t be afraid to be who you were made to be. Stand up and be counted as different. Stand in your freedom.

Galatians 5: 1a

It is for Freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then.

Today I choose freedom. Freedom from FEAR. Freedom from conforming to what the world says, FREEDOM to CHASE DIFFERENT!

Thanks for listening to Chasing DIFFERENT. If you'd like to know more about who I am please visit me at www.robinmarie.org. where you'll find all the transcripts to this podcast and my kids' podcast "Different isn't Bad."

It would really help me out if you would subscribe and share this podcast with others.

Let's get the word out that being part of God's family doesn't mean we have to look and act the same, after all in the words of Oliver James;

"Why are you trying so hard to fit in when you were born to stand out?"

See you next time