

“Gideon replied, “If you are truly going to help me, show me a sign to prove that it is really the Lord speaking to me. Don’t go away until I come back and bring my offering to you.” He answered, “I will stay here until you return.” Judges 6:17-18 NLT

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Here’s your sign! Honestly, after reading this story so many times over the years, I just wanted to capture the way time, life and connection happen. I just came through a super busy weekend with an all day conference on Saturday to a full and frenetic Church day on Sunday. Do you know how many details go into planning and executing a couple of public services on Sunday? It’s chaotic, busy and somewhat of an adrenaline burst to get it done. I used to like that. I don’t like it anymore. Then I read this popular Bible story of incredible encounter, bravery and coarse change for Gideon, his family and the nation. It all started with a small but timely conversation. Then Gideon, remembering his hospitality manners asks for the ANGEL of the Lord to wait. I know he didn’t know it was an Angel of the Lord at the time, but he asked Jesus to wait until he could properly have the TIME necessary for a conversation, around a meal, well, an offering. This all takes TIME and it’s appropriate and appreciated! Don’t give me the cultural differences of the day excuse, humans are humans and as horribly busy as we are now (even as machines and technology has made our life so “easy”) we are NOT some super android race of people who do not require a nice long conversation about things that matter. I see this as purposeful and intentional. There was a lot riding on this BIG ask of Jesus to Gideon. It was going to rock his world and his nation - so let’s just take some time to walk through this at a pace that Gideon can wrap his brain around it. Why is EVERYTHING so rushed? Stupid clocks! On an average “business” meeting where I’m asking or listening to someone very busy it lasts ONE HOUR. If it gets personal, or spiritually interesting it lasts 90 minutes. I get a whole 30 minutes more to get to core, things that matter. NINETY MINUTES! How long did Jesus spend with Gideon? I don’t know, I’m guessing more than an hour or hour and a half. I want to value people more than I value time! I try to value their time, but I realize these are the moments that are the building blocks of conversation and community in ETERNITY. Where TIME itself has no meaning. Is God ever rushed for time? NO! And, his timing is PERFECT. He is not rushed and it’s always right! I’ve got to go or I’ll be LATE for the office.

Dad,

Short prayer: HELP! Help me SLOW down with my time with you and for sure with others. Thank you for the gift of time to spend and steward just like my money and my gifting.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root