

“Let’s go across to the outpost of those pagans,” Jonathan said to his armor bearer. “Perhaps the Lord will help us, for nothing can hinder the Lord. He can win a battle whether he has many warriors or only a few!” 1 Samuel 14:6 NLT

lectio // 1 Samuel 13:23-14:23

A little bit of curiosity, a little bit of faith and a different kind of “fleece.” Jonathon and his amour bearer goes out to check out an enemy encampment of 600 men. Let’s see - two verses six hundred... great odds based on Jonathan’s math, “nothing can hinder the Lord.” Who told Jon that God was eager to get involved with his cause? That’s faith too, I guess. He does however, check things out with a sure fire fleece. Normally, fleeces like Gideon’s famous fleece are when you DON’T want to do something. But Jon’s fleece seems like he wanted to fight. Jon says to his friend, “We will cross over and let them see us. If they say to us, ‘Stay where you are or we’ll kill you,’ then we will stop and not go up to them. But if they say, ‘Come on up and fight,’ then we will go up. That will be the Lord’s sign that he will help us defeat them.” Yep, I’m not sure either of them sounds “safe.” They both say, “we’re spying on you,” for sure. But one certainly sounds like a surprise night attack from the entire Israel army. Sure enough, they are seen. The Philistines make their regular war-taunt, “vermin crawling out of holes,” and then they add, “Then the men from the outpost shouted to Jonathan, “Come on up here, and we’ll teach you a lesson!” That’s all Jon needed to hear. Up they go and they quickly kill 20 men before God began to confuse the whole camp, then added earthquakes for some, ya know, special effects. Who doesn’t like a good earthquake while you’re in battle? Philistines run, Saul’s army pursues and Israel lives to fight another day. The end - not really. Curiosity and faith are a power mix of finding and engaging in good trouble. The kind of trouble where we get ourselves in and want God to show up to you really do the miracles we cannot do. What kind of story is that for this day and age when that seems so presumptuous, so pretentious? How many of us would dive deep into a mess of injustice and just believe that God will allow us, no “miracle” us into a win? That takes some big cajones, if you ask me. Yet, this is still a real possibility of living a Jesus life in our modern world today.

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Dad,
Jonathan seemed like a normal, reasonable guy - even as a son of the first king of Israel. His faith though is no different from what my faith could be today. People have always talked about amazing exploits for God, the David Wilkerson kind of stories. And yet, most of us (me) aren’t willing to be that curious and that courageous to actually act on something when we see it. Is it easier when you’re younger? Not so cynical and calloused by life and others? I don’t know. I do know I want to lead a life of curiosity and faith. I don’t know what modern fleeces look like, but I’d like to think I’m willing to try one 😊.

contemplatio

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