

*DON'T WASTE THIS MOMENT*  
**I WILL PRAY**

**SERIES SUMMARY...**

Life is made up of moments. Some moments are filled with great joy and excitement whereas other moments are marked by trials and tribulation. COVID-19 has caused the world to enter into a shared moment, and for many, this moment is causing a lot of fear, stress, anxiety and worry. With so much uncertainty in this moment we are in, as Christ-followers, how shall we not waste the moment God has placed us in?

Over the course of this series, we will ask: Is there something we should be doing that would help us to not miss all that God is seeking to accomplish in this moment?

**WEEK ONE: PRAYER.** As we see in the Scriptures, prayer propelled the people of God to not waste the moment that God had placed them in. Considering the examples of Gideon and Joshua, we learn what it looks like to trust God and pray boldly, even in and especially in the midst of unexpected situations.

**A FEW QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER...**

1. Share a challenge and a highlight from this past week. Moving forward, what do you want to remember most about this moment we are all experiencing?
2. If this is a 'God moment that we are in right now' (as Michael mentioned), how are we to understand the hand and work of God in such a time like this? What questions are you asking? (For instance...Why would God 'allow' this to happen? Where was God when this virus broke out in Wuhan...or Italy...or the world?)
3. Discuss Gideon's situation. To understand what is happening, **read Judges 6:1-6**, then **6:12-14**. Discuss God's invitation to Gideon: What was Gideon asked to do? What was his first response? What does Gideon's initial pessimism reveal about what he believed about God? What changed for Gideon that enabled him to fully enter into the moment God had for him? Review **Judges 6:36-40**.
4. **Read Joshua 10:12-14** (to understand the situation, review **Joshua 10:5-8**). What was God inviting Joshua to do? What does Joshua's prayer reveal about his belief in God?
5. Both Gideon and Joshua experienced moments in which their plans changed significantly; yet they prayed big, bold, audacious prayers. We are in a situation in which the coronavirus pandemic is significantly altering our plans. If prayer signifies these three things about God:

I trust you – I need you – I love you, what do your prayers communicate to God? What is God calling you into during this moment? What can you do so that you don't waste it?

6. Reflect: What holds you back from praying boldly? **Read James 5:17-18.** Through the example of Elijah, what does James want us to know about prayer? How does this empower you?

### **BIBLICAL TEXTS CITED...**

The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!" "Sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn't they say, 'The Lord brought us up out of Egypt'? But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites." Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!" Judges 6:12-14 (NLT)

Gideon said to God, "If you are truly going to use me to rescue Israel as you promised, prove it to me in this way. I will put a wool fleece on the threshing floor tonight. If the fleece is wet with dew in the morning but the ground is dry, then I will know that you are going to help me rescue Israel as you promised." "And that is just what happened." Then Gideon said to God, "Please don't be angry with me, but let me make one more request. Let me use the fleece for one more test. This time let the fleece remain dry while the ground around it is wet with dew." "So that night God did as Gideon asked." Judges 6:36-40 (NLT)

On the day the Lord gave the Israelites victory over the Amorites, Joshua prayed to the Lord in front of all the people of Israel. He said, "Let the sun stand still over Gibeon, and the moon over the valley of Aijalon." "So the sun stood still and the moon stayed in place until the nation of Israel had defeated its enemies. The sun stayed in the middle of the sky, and it did not set as on a normal day. There has never been a day like this one before or since, when the Lord answered such a prayer." Joshua 10:12-14 (NLT)

"Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops." James 5:17-18 (NLT)

### **SERMON ONLINE...**

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