

Looking for the Light

a devotional from
ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Monday, April 20, 2020

by Amy Morriss

Read:

*Judges 6:36-40 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
The Sign of the Fleece*

³⁶ Then Gideon said to God, "In order to see whether you will deliver Israel by my hand, as you have said, ³⁷ I am going to lay a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will deliver Israel by my hand, as you have said." ³⁸ And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. ³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, "Do not let your anger burn against me, let me speak one more time; let me, please, make trial with the fleece just once more; let it be dry only on the fleece, and on all the ground let there be dew." ⁴⁰ And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.

Reflect:

This story has always made me chuckle a little bit. Haven't we all done this? "God, give me a sign." Whether we then find the sign to be a little obscure, or because it is not the sign we were looking for, or maybe just because we want to stall a little bit, often we find ourselves responding just like Gideon on the next day, "I want to be really, really sure, God. Can you give me *another* sign?"

I think a lot of us are looking for signs right now. Certainly we're looking for God-sent signs that things are going to be okay, that we will get to return to some version of normal soon. But we're looking for other signs too. As a scientist, I'm trained to look for signs in data trends, and there has been plenty of data to survey! As a science teacher, I'm also seeking signs from my high school students: signs that they are getting something out of our zoom-delivered instruction (or not), signs that they need a little extra patience or compassion right now, signs that they are doing okay (or not).



In the best of times, I worry about my students and pray for them daily. Now, struggling to interpret the signs I seek when I observe them Brady-Bunch-style on our zoom calls or when I read their homework and e-mails, I find myself like Gideon, seeking more information, more clues to be sure that I am understanding their grasp of a concept and their emotional state. I've seen some really promising and heart-warming signs. The joy my students share when they greet one another as they come into the zoom calls is a sign of their community, even if it is taking a different shape. The way they jump in to answer each other's questions and provide helpful tips and suggestions during our class time is a sign of their compassion and care for one another. I was able to see their community and compassion before the school building closed, but now – just like Gideon's fleece – they have found a way to show me these things in a whole new way. And ultimately – just like Gideon's fleece – what they are showing me is that God will deliver us, in this case by sending friends and colleagues to support us through these times of uncertainty.

Ask:

- How might God be sending you a sign today?
- How might you help someone to see a sign from God in your words or actions today?

Pray:

When we lived in Indiana, we were members of Central Presbyterian Church. Most Sunday afternoons, a Korean congregation gathered in the building for a fellowship and worship. I got to be good friends with the worship leader, Minh Seo. Minh was also a poet who wrote in both Korean and English, and she gave me a book of her poems, *Sound of Heart*. Her poem "Thanks" reads like a prayer appropriate to today:

Thanks for giving me pains
They gave me a heart to pray
for the weak

Thanks for giving me worries
They opened my eyes in faith
to see Your will

Thanks for giving me separations
They embedded precious memories
deep in my heart

Thanks for giving me sufferings
They washed away the stains
and I became a person of holiness

Amen

To send us your prayer requests, click on [this link](#) and our church staff and prayer group will add you to our weekly prayer list. You will have the option to specify your request as confidential.

*If you would like to contribute to our daily devotionals, please email Pastor Sarah,
sarah@scapc.org.*

www.scapc.org

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