

Moments of God's Grand Presence

Pastor Brian Goke

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This past week, my 10-year-old son and I spent 4 days hiking through the rocky high desert trails of the Grand Canyon in Arizona. As we hiked the 26 miles from the north rim to the south rim, we took time to thoroughly enjoy God's remarkable creation: from gazing up at the millions of stars at night to waiting (mostly) patiently for our dehydrated food to cook over the portable camp stove, from wading up to our knees in the Colorado River to resting regularly and shooting hundreds of photos - steep cliff drop-offs, lush waterfalls, venomous rattlesnakes and scorpions, giant condors, graceful mule deer, and countless extravagant geological formations. One day, as we were refilling our water bottles, we encountered a weary group of extreme athletes who were attempting to cross the Canyon in 1 day. While I admired their fitness challenge, I was honestly baffled by their unwillingness to slow down and marvel at God's incredible geological masterpiece. These people were literally racing through one of the most beautiful places on planet earth.

In Matthew 22, Jesus tells a story about a king who threw a party and invited all the expected guests. "But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business..". Were these people simply too busy to attend? Were they moving too fast to slow down and be in God's presence? We don't know for sure, but I wonder about our own lives. Are we too busy for God that we unintentionally say "no" to God's invitation to find rest and be renewed? Are we moving too fast through life that we are unwilling to slow down and marvel at God's incredible blessings in our lives? Have we become so focused on filling our days with activities, that we simply miss experiencing God's extravagant love? My prayer for you and me is that we would slow down this week and discover moments of God's grand presence - moments that would fill us spiritually, moments where light would shine in the dark places of our lives, and moments where we would be in awe of God's extravagant love for you and me, God's masterpiece.

