

## **Traveling Companion: Why does God wait 'til the eleventh hour?**

### **Fr. Michael Tracey**

My friend, the travel agent, called me the other day. She wanted to see how I was doing. I asked how business was going and she said they had a few months of very little business but that the last week, she had booked several groups. Then she asked, “Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Then she said, “Maybe there is an article there for you.”

Sure enough, there is. I have ruminated over her question during the past few days and tried to see how I might go about trying to answer it. The question kept coming back to me.

Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Maybe, he wants to see how sincere we are in our request. If we’re just asking for the sake of asking and we’re not sincere, why should he waste his time (even if he isn’t bound by time).

Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Maybe, he wants to see if we will persevere. I think about the woman in the gospel who kept bugging the unjust judge until she got justice.

Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Maybe he wants to see if we will explore all options before he commits himself. In that way, maybe we have learned some valuable lessons.

Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Maybe he wants to see if we have enough faith to accept the fact that he is God and can come through for us at any hour, even the eleventh.

Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Maybe he wants to see if we are willing to really listen to his heartbeat even in his silence.

Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Maybe, he wants us to do some soul searching on our own first before he hands us the raw material for the solution.

Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Maybe he wants us to have enough faith to see his handwriting in the raw material of his response that becomes the solution.

Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Maybe he wants to challenge our level of trust in him.

Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Maybe he wants us to remember the lessons of the past he has taught us, assuring us that he will always do what is best for us.

Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Maybe he likes to tease us into submission, get on our knees and accept our weaknesses.

Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Maybe he wants to make sure that we not only know what we are asking for, but that we have the courage to accept it when it happens.

Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Maybe he wants us to know that he is in charge and he knows best what we need and when we need it.

Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Maybe he wants to see if we can find the answer in the maze of life on our own first.

Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Maybe, he’s just like our kids who love to try our patience so that we might become one of the most patience persons in the country and people will flock to our ears so that we can be God’s ear of healing for them.

Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Maybe he wants to strip away all our defenses and excuses so that he has a clean sheet to work with.

Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Maybe God has a sense of humor and he is the biggest tease of all, letting us know that we shouldn’t take ourselves too seriously because he has everything under control.

Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour? Maybe he just wants to keep us on our toes, keep us guessing, just like he did me when my friend asked, “Why does God wait ‘til the eleventh hour?”