



## Interruptions

I took this picture from a campground on a Colorado Sunday morning. The Christian symbolism was strong: two rainbows (the symbol of God's promised mercy for sinful people stretching from sky to earth, just like Jacob's ladder), superimposed against a mountain (the terrain where Moses met God), appearing on a Sunday morning (the day that Christians have set aside to worship). I watched with awe. I whispered, "Holy."

But when I had awakened that morning, I had not been expecting to see Glory. I was fuming. I had come to the campground for a peaceful weekend. Instead, I discovered that Gizmo-the-Dog and his people were camping in the next campsite (about 10 yards from my tent). Gizmo was poorly trained, and his people responded by yelling at him when he did something wrong (which was often). That Sunday morning, my peaceful slumber had been interrupted before 6 a.m. by a woman's voice, seemingly right next to my ear, saying, "Gizmo . . . Gizmo . . . COME HERE . . . BAD DOG . . . COME HERE." Jerking awake, I was angry. I wanted Gizmo and his obnoxious owner to go away.

Here's the thing: *If naughty Gizmo and his inconsiderate people had not been camping next to me, I would have slept through the glory. I would have missed the chance to whisper, "Holy" to my Creator.* The rainbow did not last long. It was gone before most campers woke up.

I have thought of Gizmo many times since that day. The world has a seemingly endless supply of annoying people, and my desire for peace is often interrupted by traffic or weather or a virus or a stranger's loud voice. **And yet, it is possible that God might use that interruption to open my eyes so that I can see His glory . . . so that I can whisper, "Holy." The question is simple: can I learn to stop fuming at the annoyances and start whispering, "Speak, Lord, for I am listening"?**

*And God said . . . "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth" (Genesis 9:13, NIV).*