

EXT. CHURCH GROUNDS - DAY

Church members, all clad in their blue cloaks, flock to the church. Eamon stands outside, greeting everyone as they enter. He pulls Gideon aside.

EAMON

Good morning Gideon. Services went well last night.

GIDEON

They did! I'm sure we're both very pleased. I'm expecting a few to return this morning.

EAMON

That's great! But I heard you disappeared for a while. May I speak to you about that?

GIDEON

Sure.

INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY - LATER

Eamon gestures for Gideon to come with him. The sanctuary looks the same as it did last night; dark and shadowy from the tarps covering the stained glass. The candles are quickly being relit by busy church members. Gideon follows Eamon to his office at the end of the hallway behind the sanctuary.

INT. EAMON'S OFFICE - LATER

GIDEON

I was just showing around a new member.

EAMON

Who was he?

GIDEON

Her name is Martha.

EAMON

Gideon...

GIDEON

I know, I know. She just seemed more interested than the others.

EAMON

I understand. And I trust you to be alone with her. But it sets a bad example for the other members.

GIDEON

Completely. I knew better.

EAMON

I'm sure one of the new men would have been interested too. Just take along a chaperone next time, okay?

GIDEON

Yes. Of course. I'm sorry.

EAMON

Well, it's alright. I'm sure she'll be back today, but I hope it's for the right reasons.

GIDEON

Her intentions with this church are pure. As are mine. Nothing to be worried about.

EAMON

That's great. I just wanted to make sure.

GIDEON

I completely understand. It won't happen again.

EAMON

You can go now. I need to prepare my sermon.

GIDEON

Thank you. I'll be seeing you later.

Gideon turns and leaves Eamon's office.

INT. CHURCH SANCTURY - LATER

Gideon sits in the deacon's chair, watching people file into the pews.

He sees Martha wearing a navy blue dress, obviously trying to mimic the dress of the church. A group of newcomers sit together, one of them being Suzanne.

A hymn plays over the speakers, signaling that service is about to start. The congregation settles in, and Gideon approaches the pulpit.

GIDEON

Good morning, all. It is such a blessing to see the newcomers sitting among us this morning. I trust that you'll find a beautiful home here. If you have any lingering questions about the church, please approach a member. We are all happy to help. But now, we will come together to hear Eamon's sermon.

Eamon walks onto the pulpit, and Gideon sits in the deacon's chair.

EAMON

Before we begin, let's start with a prayer of gratitude. We are all very thankful for congregation, existing members and new members alike.

Eamon bows his head and the church members follow suit.

EAMON (CONT'D)

Father God, we thank you for leading your children to light...

As Eamon prays, Gideon begins to tremble and squeeze his eyes shut.

EAMON (CONT'D)

...for sending them on the divine path...

Gideon trembles harder and turns as white as a sheet, but continues praying.

EAMON (CONT'D)

...and for giving me the opportunity to...

Suddenly, Gideon breaks his prayer and rushes out of the sanctuary. Eamon is distracted by this and stops praying, giving Gideon an evil look before he refocuses and resumes.

The congregation follows Gideon with their eyes, but quickly returns their attention back to Eamon.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Gideon crashes onto the floor, tears flowing down his cheeks. He sits against the wall and puts his head between his knees, gasping for air. He crawls his way to Eamon's office door, and sits there in waiting.

INT. EAMON'S OFFICE

A still pale Gideon sits in front of an unhappy Eamon.

EAMON

What is wrong with you?
Interrupting a new member service?

GIDEON

I'm sorry, Eamon. I couldn't help it. Please forgive me.

EAMON

What happened? Are you sick?

GIDEON

I don't know... maybe. I don't know what happened.

Eamon assesses Gideon for a moment, realizing how shaken he is.

EAMON

You can tell me, Gideon. There can't be any secrets here.

GIDEON

I know, I know. It's just hard to put into words.

EAMON

Take your time.

Gideon rests his head on his hands, taking too-loud deep breaths.

GIDEON

During prayer, I felt something. A vision.

EAMON

What? What vision?

GIDEON

A message from God. I know it sounds crazy, but I just know.

EAMON

It does sound crazy. Have you been sleeping enough, Gideon?

GIDEON

Yes. Trust me Eamon, I know it was from Him.

EAMON

No Gideon, trust me when I say that if God had a message for anyone in this congregation, it would be me.

GIDEON

That's what's so startling. Why me?

EAMON

It's not you. You need to relax. It's been a hectic few days. What did you see?

GIDEON

Danger. We are all in danger. I felt death, anger, hatred, in the most palpable way. It was like I was slipping into death, knowing there was something bleak on the other side. I felt that fear for all of us. You, too.

EAMON

And why would The Light send you such a terrifying message? Perhaps you fell asleep during prayer and had a nightmare.

GIDEON

No, Eamon. I'm telling you, we need to take this seriously. Something bad is coming.

EAMON

Have I ever let anything bad come to this congregation? No. I know God is on our side. There is nothing to fear.

GIDEON

Maybe God sent me this message knowing I would tell you.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

You are still receiving it, one way or another.

EAMON

Gideon, stop. You had a nightmare. I think you need to spend some time resting, before this gets even more out of hand.

GIDEON

I'm sorry, but I need to talk to you about this. At least entertain my position. If I am alone, I think I might burst into pieces.

EAMON

Well, I understand your passion.

GIDEON

This must be how you felt when He spoke to you at first. Was it this terrifying?

Eamon is fed up.

EAMON

This isn't the same at all. You did not have a vision.

Gideon looks broken.

EAMON (CONT'D)

I'm sure you know the story of the Israelites in the forest?

GIDEON

Of course, but what does that have to do with this?

EAMON

When the Israelites were freed from their life of slavery, they walked in the forest to find the promised land.

GIDEON

Yes.

EAMON

But not all of them made it, did they?

GIDEON

No. The ones who strayed from God were left to wander.

EAMON

They were left to wander till their death.

GIDEON

Yes.

EAMON

Do you see what I am showing you? I am leading you through the forest, getting you to the promised land. But you insist on following an earthly dream. If you decide to take this seriously, you will be punished. This message is not from God, or it would have been sent to me. Following it will leave you lost in the forest, and I will not be there to guide you.

GIDEON

But if not from God, who is it from? Who could send me a message this powerful?

EAMON

The human mind is very powerful.

GIDEON

But Eamon, I don't think you're understanding me.

EAMON

I don't think you're understanding ME. For the last time, if this was an important message from God, why would he send it to you?

GIDEON

I'm sorry.

EAMON

Now Gideon, don't be sorry. But remember your place within the church. I have an open line of communication with Him. You stick to your prayer. And think about the Israelites.

GIDEON

Thank you Eamon, you're right. I don't know what happened. But I can't let it distract me. I will pray on your story.

EAMON

Good. I'm glad. And if this happens again, see me.

GIDEON

Okay. Again, thank you.

Gideon exits Eamon's office, still sweating.

Eamon starts rifling through his desk, looking for something intently. He finally finds his Bible, and checks to make sure he got the story of the Israelites correct. He breathes a sigh of relief when he realizes he didn't mess up.