

“You can make many plans, but the Lord’s purpose will prevail.” Proverbs 19:21 NLT

[lectio] // PROVERBS 19:19-25

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

Oh how very true this simple fact is! We make lots of plans, we have lots of dreams, aspirations and hopes. God knows everyone of them. And, it’s not that he is working against our wishes, it’s just that he knows us better, knows where we should be going and knows how to get us on to moving us towards that purpose. It’s very confusing and frustrating at times. We love faith and trust in terms of theory, but we want to look busy, be busy and proactively wander about like we’re gonna get what we think is a preferred outcome. In the middle of all that worrisome, frantic, frenetic energy is God’s purpose plodding along. Are we supposed to just sit around, pray and not do anything to “find” or “strive” towards what we believe God wants? Waiting never looks productive! And oddly, blind childlike faith looks like stupid laziness. You should do SOMETHING the voices in our head and in our ears ring out. SOMETHING is better than NOTHING, isn’t it? What does trust look like when you have no idea HOW things will work out. Say it’s looking for a job, a husband, a friend or a calling? Is it really better to beat the pavement, or bushes or your network to try to shake out a plan? Isn’t faith supposed to look aggressive, assertive and for assuredly positive? Often I have felt that I just meandered and wandered into God’s purpose while “looking” busy to satisfy my conscience, fiends and family. Truth - I didn’t know what the heck I was doing! I was feigning faith and confidence!

[oratio]

Dad,

I’d be the first one to say your plans are good and they work, but that’s always in a posture of REFLECTION! You ways look much nicer when looking back on a very weird path to present. Do I trust your idea of purpose and plans to get there? Even with hesitation, I say yes to the past and “I’m not sure to the future.” I can just be happy and a little sappy in future pursuits but it will really look silly to the people around me that are thinking the same thing as me - well, you should be doing SOMETHING! Should I just maintain a busyness just to make everyone happy - including myself? Wow, we are a weird bunch! Get us there God! And forgive our clumsy efforts to look like we know what we’re doing.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root