

“The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day.” Proverbs 4:18 NLT

[lectio] // PROVERBS 4:10-19

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

[meditatio]

Okay, I am a sucker for a brilliant sunrise - period. I love driving, walking and cresting the horizon and having the sun beam like a powerful ray of warmth and beauty. I can see how righteousness is comparable to that moment. It bursts onto the scene, into a situation. Righteousness is heroic because it shows up, not only in darkness, but in desperation. And when it does, everything changes. The author talks about the cruelty and hunger of darkness, as if it were a personality or character. But when righteousness appears, the villain must retreat, must shrink back into its lair. And, I believe, I know what righteousness is in this allegorical chapter. It's justice, fairness, honor and civility. It's open, honest, truthful and safe. That's right, evil might feel powerful to the one who wields its wickedness. But, evil is never safe, never at peace. Evil is always on the edge of entrapment and betrayal. Righteousness, may feel intrusive, but it does so in a surgical, healing manner. It comes to expose and extricate cancers, not encourage them, thus spreading their rebellion.

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

I am inspired to be a hero of righteousness. To be that presence that burst into darkness and brings warmth, and beauty. To remind myself and others to be their better self and not lean to shadows and subterfuge. To bring clarity and allow decisions that call people upward and inspire them to not only delight in the brilliance of righteousness, but to reflect it and become a fellow light bearer of your peace. Please let me grow in this capacity, in this gift. I'm asking!

[contemplatio]

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