

“Listen to me! For I have important things to tell you. Everything I say is right, for I speak the truth and detest every kind of deception. My advice is wholesome. There is nothing devious or crooked in it. My words are plain to anyone with understanding, clear to those with knowledge.” Proverbs 8:6-9 NLT

## [lectio] // PROVERBS 8:1-9

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

## [meditatio]

reflect on – what word, words, phrase, or sentence speaks to you from the text, then write them down

Wisdom speaks to us as a friend, as a mentor. There is no shade nor subterfuge here. Wisdom says, “you get all the benefits, just for listening.” If I can just listen and learn - both are the tough part. Normally when someone wants to help, there’s always an angle, a benefit. No one does something out of pure motive. Of course, wisdom does! And, I believe, Christ calls us to help in just that way. Give with no expectation of return. Give with no intention of benefit. Give with no hooks, tricks or gimmicks. Just help and rejoice when God does a miracle in someone’s life.

## [oratio]

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

Dad,

I thought I had always been selfless when it came to helping. I realized that I still snuck in a small little, “well it’d be nice if...” You know how my brain races ahead, planning, scheming, on fixating on “possibilities.” I’ve called them “Faith Fantasies” and I’m learning NOT to do it. I’m learning to live in the present, stay in the moment and quit projecting a hundred outcomes - all of which I become a 🧐. It’s tiring, disappointing and disingenuous. Along with the hard truth that I CAN’T fix people, comes the hard truth that they rarely do what I want to fulfill the role that I’ve designed for them in my mind-story. Moral: romanticism has its downsides! However, you (wisdom) are not like that. It’s a sweet mystery how you woo people, lavish grace and gently spur folks just to ALLOW them to do what is right. How do you have such patience?

## [contemplatio]

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