

“O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water.” Psalms 63:1 NLT

[lectio] // PSALM 63

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

Earnestly search - the only time I search like that is when I'm desperately lost. In one sense, I am lost. I'm off track from where I thought I'd be, and have had to separate what I do from who I am. I started (at fifteen) with NOTHING. I was no one, owned nothing, had zero talent and barely knew anyone. Slowly, over several years, we began to build a life. A life that glorified God, gave a foundation for our family and GAINED several things. One, I gained friends. Then gained a reputation, silly-smart, techie, positive problem solver. After that I gained skills, talent and hard-earned abilities. Each one of these areas gave me something when I had nothing. Yet, they (reputation, skill & friends) would only get me so far. I repeatedly got passed over for those more "qualified." It happened a few times in my "career." I just didn't have what it "takes." I didn't know exactly what it was that I was missing, but it was evident to everyone but me. Oh, I kept pushing, kept trying, only to get shut down. This last round, I went all out and walked away from a really good paying position, influence and honestly, a completely satisfying and respected ministry. I would tell people what I did and they listened and often said, "good for you," or "thank you." It was honorable and transformative in the lives of children and adults. I LEFT that to RISK! I saw incompetence above me in leadership and just would not take it. My leader made twice my salary, had zero results and was rarely around. He had title and power, but couldn't lead me (or the organization). Of course, I'd been passed up for that position because I wasn't qualified and didn't show capacity to raise a lot of money. So I went back into the Church, to attempt a succession toward lead Pastor. It was the most miserable year of my life. Oh, I was arrogant and projected that I could lead this small chaotic group of people with my eyes closed. I was overqualified! I was gifted! I was the answer for whatever question the church had! The whole thing completely, utterly blew up! I was TERMINATED. That's worse than being passed over - I was NOT enough, NOT a fit, NOT qualified. Yeah, the five-heart-stint pastor was a jerk, but honestly it would have killed me too. The people were just gullibly happy to hang out and do church. Now I'm not sure what I can do OR what I want to do. Last night God worked me over again and brought me back before I had ANYTHING but him. Remember, no reputation, money, influence, skills or friends - it was totally and completely God and God alone. God told me I had to separate what I do from who I am. My life, perspective and future depended on what I could DO for him. But God wants me, not my skills and inflated reputation! I worked so hard to matter, to prove, to compare to project I forgot my beginnings. I forgot the simplicity of listening and obedience. I forgot about faith and dependency. I quit searching for God because I didn't feel lost or thirsty.

[contemplatio]

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