

“Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.”
Colossians 4:5-6 NLT

[lectio] // COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

I love Paul's ability to synthesize all of Judaic culture and practices into simple Greek concepts that have a way of living beyond time and cultural boundaries. They reach me! I'm sure this idea of living in a non-God-aware world was all through the Old Testament when God was speaking to Israel and desired to speak through Israel. This is just simple humanity 101 - be nice, be kind, be ATTRACTIVE. Especially in attitude and conversation. This could be translated several ways: be normal, sensitive, aware. People can smell weird or odd, and now with the advancement of knowledge, news and social media, they can smell a catch, a trap, a sale or a con. Everyone's "radar" is up and aware of "I'm being nice" angle because I want something from you. Is it so hard just to NOT want something from someone. Is it too hard just to be nice, be encouraging, smile and use someone's name in the conversation? I think we can all manage this! Let God do the hard job of convincing, wooing, and working where we can't anyways - in people's heart. Leave the heavy work up to God.

[oratio]

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

Dad,

I don't know if I'm getting better at this or not. I know I think about it a lot. I have found that I am pretty selfish, self focused, busy, stressed and/or distracted by so many things. But, I am trying. Generally, when I am at peace with you and I'm trusting you to do hard work in my life, it allows me the freedom to relax, be myself, be spiritually aware and be nice, be attractive in conversation with others. These morning meets help me listen, adjust, breath and feel your presence to face a hectic, chaotic world. A world filled with hate, violence, harsh words and stressed out humanity. Let me be that voice as cool and fresh as a mountain breeze.

[contemplatio]

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