

“David found favor with God and asked for the privilege of building a permanent Temple for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who actually built it. However, the Most High doesn’t live in temples made by human hands. As the prophet says,”  
Acts 7:46-48 NLT

## [lectio] // ACTS 7:44-53

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

Stephen couldn’t have made it any clearer. Where did he get all that radical temple thinking? David asked! God said, “I have the whole earth as my footstool, what could you possibly build for me?” Then he concludes, “The most high doesn’t live in temples made by humans.” Why do we always want God to live in our structures and systems? Because it makes him like us and we get a sense of control and safety. But God is not safe and can’t be controlled- he is wild and does the controlling. Stephen was stoned for his radical speech. One because he blamed the Jews for killing the messiah, but two because he spoke against the temple - which had become their control, their idol, their focus of God. Even a church building can’t compare to how much the religious leaders loved their temple and their systems of holiness.

## [oratio]

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

Dad,

I can imagine what it does to a relationship when one person wants to control the other - that’s considered abuse. And yet, we want to control you - the creator of all things! We want to keep you safe with boundaries of what you should do, could do and feel that we are responsible to lead others to come and visit you in a cage we call a building or a system. I know you are fierce, wild and you’re power knows no bounds. But, you are always right, true and just. This makes me frail to think that I could understand or contain you.

## [contemplatio]

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