

“For the leaders of my people— the Lord’s watchmen, his shepherds— are blind and ignorant. They are like silent watchdogs that give no warning when danger comes. They love to lie around, sleeping and dreaming.” Isaiah 56:10 NLT

[lectio] // ISAIAH 56:9-12

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

Isaiah lays it out clear. The leaders are not doing their job! He writes, “Like greedy dogs, they are never satisfied. They are ignorant shepherds, all following their own path and intent on personal gain.” I know many pastor/shepherds who are doing just that. I don’t think they are intentionally hurting the flock, it’s just that they have given up the hard job of leading - warning when danger is coming. I’m sure our pastors talk about how bad it is “out there,” meaning Hollywood, Washington DC and American culture in general. However, they have not taught, told or led the church on their part, their job, their responsibility. The church closed in tighter and tighter, the sermons railed against the sins of the world that we forgot we ARE the light, we ARE the salt. If we are not in darkness or in culture we lost effectiveness, we lose purpose, we lose the heart of God for the lost we’re trying to stay away from. Oh shepherds, oh leaders why wouldn’t you warn us?

[oratio]

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

Dad,

I am probably one of the biggest offenders of this truth. I saw what was happening. I saw the circle closing in, the fort gates locking up all the while praying for revival (and maybe even judgment!). I ignored my own icky and didn’t want to be dragged back into the messiness of broken people or broken families. We had plenty of it IN the church, I didn’t need to take on broken neighbors as well. I am sorry I did not speak up, repent and do more. I was weak and timid and afraid. I didn’t want to cause problems or make people not like me. I became a lazy shepherd, an ineffective leader in terms of my gifts and my gut.

[contemplatio]

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