

“Some people are always greedy for more, but the godly love to give!” Proverbs 21:26 NLT

[lectio] // PROVERBS 21:25-31

Solomon and his wise counsel, all presumably wealthy, make a human observation - greedy and givers. What if I'm both? I really do think of myself as greedy. Don't look at my behaviors on this, look at my motivations. I'm pretty selfish. I have a lot of wants, don't normally share and have a tough time giving when I have my eye on something I'd like. However, I am better than I used to be. I wouldn't share food or fries in the past. I didn't want my wife to eat off my plate! I was bothered because I had secured plans on the amount of fries, candy, treats or whatever that I felt I needed and RARELY planned for enough to SHARE. I would earn money and have an idea of exactly how I wanted to spend it - emphasis on "I"! I will likely always struggle with selfishness and greed. I don't say that to be a defeatist, just a realist. But I have figured out how to give and enjoy the opportunity to do so. When I really look at what I have and remember when I had nothing, I am convinced that giving is the only way to counterattack the greed in me. I think it's working - but that's because God seems to give us more. The biggest shift in my thinking when "extra" money comes in - the first thing I now think is, "God what is this for? What do you want me to do with this? Most of the time, within a few days of asking that question, a tailored need very close to the exact amount we received gets my attention. "Is this what the money was for?" I ask God. Then I gladly give it. It wasn't mine anyways, it was designated or purposed for someone else and God decided to let me be a part, to feel like he feels when giving. Wow! I get to take on a godly character when I give!

[oratio]

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

Dad,

When given the opportunity to act like you, I enjoy participating. I used to think, "well I'll give when I have enough, or everything I need." You know that all I found was a deeper greed for more. If I had allowed that to be the method by which I could be a giver, I would have never gone through with it. I have enough. May I always be thankful to manage the money you've purposed for others and your Kingdom - not mine.

[contemplatio]

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