

“Your throne, O God (or your divine throne), endures forever and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice. You love justice and hate evil. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else.”
Psalms 45:6-7 NLT

lectio // Psalm 45

Well, this is interesting! This whole chapter is written for the choir director by the descendants of Korah. And it's about the king. It's basically a song about how great the king is and how he should be admired for his strong rule and expansive court of women and how fortunate they all are. This will give you the idea of the fawning that takes place, “Beautiful words stir my heart. I will recite a lovely poem about the king, for my tongue is like the pen of a skillful poet. You are the most handsome of all. Gracious words stream from your lips. God himself has blessed you forever.” Wow. Talk about kissing the ring. So what's this doing here in Psalms? I will try to remember to do a research after the wave of nausea passes. Maybe I am too American. Maybe I am over-reactive to authority. Maybe this is the root of my father issues - to subject myself to authority. But, there is not much in this chapter I can truly feel encouraged by. I only see power, entitlement and “ring” kissing. I'm a little surprised that this chapter hit me so raw. Do I have problems with God's authority? I don't/didn't think so. Do I have problems with a good, healthy leader who happens to be wealthy and is surrounded by “beautiful” palace-people who bow when they walk by? Hmmm, probably. I literally feel icky when people fawn on leaders and gush with compliments. Insert reminder: we have no king but Jesus? I can certainly thank God for gifts, qualities and even blessings of success on prominent leaders, but I cannot bring myself to worship them. I just can't do it. That is why I have problems with pastor _____. You fill in the blank. Also, I've never been a good groupie! When a popular sermon, book, or quote comes out from one of the elite, I almost immediately reject it. That's horrible right? Well, now that I've vented, I've got to write my prayer to God for today (below).

Dad,
What's wrong with me? Why do I have such a negative reaction to God-ordained (kings) leaders? Why am I repulsed by their seemingly, gleaming success? Your word has hit a nerve and I now have to see myself in the light of your truth! And I don't like what I see. Of course, I don't like what I see in prima-donna leaders either. Father, help me identify where and why I have such a visceral reaction to these leaders. Forgive me for my own sin, my own issues that I am blind to. Grant me this day a measure of grace to grow to be more like you. Amen.

contemplatio

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