

“I myself will tend my sheep and give them a place to lie down in peace, says the Sovereign Lord. I will search for my lost ones who strayed away, and I will bring them safely home again. I will bandage the injured and strengthen the weak. But I will destroy those who are fat and powerful. I will feed them, yes—feed them justice!” Ezekiel 34:15-16 NLT

## lectio // Ezekiel 34:17-23

Wow, God really doesn't like inequitable treatment among his people! He calls those who absorb all the resources provided for themselves - **FATTIES**. Ezekiel writes about those in power using and abusing the land, then trampling on what's left, and pushing out those less capable. “Therefore, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will surely judge between the fat sheep and the scrawny sheep. For you fat sheep pushed and butted and crowded my sick and hungry flock until you scattered them to distant lands.” I love NLT's liberty in calling it like it is - wrong. Ezekiel writes, “the Lord himself will feed the weak.” Then in a twist of irony, and he will feed the fat as well - he'll feed them **JUSTICE**. I've never like bullies. And, I've never liked arrogant, mouthy people either. Sure, there's some truth in the fact that one **HATES** what they see in others because it is a reflection of themselves. And maybe I've always been too weak to be a real bully or too slow to be arrogant. And, I don't like entitlement either, but I've been told that I, as a white male, am the most entitled human on the planet. Maybe so. I've never felt entitled. I've always felt like the underdog. I know one thing, I'd rather be the one fed by God than the fat sheep gobbling up all the resources and leaving none for the others. But that means I have to check myself constantly and **NOT** live like a one percenter, live like an entitled sheep.

## oratio

Dad,

The only way I know to live a just life, to live an un-entitled life, to live a humble life is to **GIVE** out of our abundance. I need to be generous with your blessings, and not hoard them. A strange mixture of fear and pride cause me to hold back. Fear, because I don't trust that you are our provider in everything. Pride, because I convince myself that I deserve the things I buy or acquire. You are my provider and I am honestly in need of nothing but your grace and mercy. Help me keep a pure heart, clear eyes and clean hands.

## contemplatio

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