

“Thieves are jealous of each other’s loot, but the godly are well rooted and bear their own fruit.”
Proverbs 12:12 NLT

lectio // Proverbs 12:8-14

Being a former liar and a thief, this wisdom nugget is difficult for me. I was young, had zero respect for other’s things and had very little guilt for doing wrong. I had the worst attitude a teenager could have towards his neighbors. I thought, “If they didn’t want me to steal it, they should have protected it better.” My mom told me when I was younger, “locks are for honest people.” I couldn’t understand it then, but I learned the mindset of someone who takes what is not theirs - thieves has no respect for people or regret for the things they steal. And, as this passage says, there is a competitive side of stealing. Plus, the axiom is true, “there is no honor among thieves!” Sadly, I was good at stealing and would have never got caught if God had not made me return a stolen item to a single mother who lived in the downstairs apartment. God put an end to my thieving ways. But the godly... they live much differently. They work, build and save to make an honest life of their own. They are rooted, planted and they reap the reward that comes from the harvest of making right decisions and not looking to loot what others have. They bear their own fruit-loot!

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Dad,

I read passages like this and it takes me a while to push past the guilt and shame of my past decisions to steal what was not mine. There are so many times I had had things stolen from me or read about others stealing from their neighbors and HATE it. Then I remember, I was a thief before you changed my life. Oftentimes, I feel like I deserve to be stolen from because of my actions as a teen. However, I am so overwhelmed by your grace and forgiveness. Thank you for helping me plant, work and root my own life to reap my own honest rewards of good fruit.

contemplatio

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