

“The wise don’t make a show of their knowledge, but fools broadcast their foolishness.” Proverbs 12:23 NLT

lectio // Proverbs 12:19-28

First of all - OUCH! How are we supposed to show people how smart we are? If we can’t spout facts, stats and stories, how can we prove our worth, our value? Am I only as good as my last quippy statement? Everything that is sticky and tweetable comes in sight and sound bites! Maybe I shouldn’t be hustling for knowledge but instead keep my mouth shut and learn to be a listener, and study people’s behaviors. I was a happy little observer for the first twenty years of my life. Then church leadership happens and there is an ENORMOUS pressure to speak to lead. I got pushed into a thought process that I had to own every room, every conversation I stepped into. Maybe I just want to be quiet for awhile. Let everyone else trade air while I just observe and listen. Of course the danger is that people will think I’m disengaged, or worse, stupid. Here Proverbs indicates the opposite- the FOOL talks incessantly! The wise don’t need to broadcast a show to prove anything. Maybe I should try this for a week? I’ll try to come back and write about the results and observations.

oratio

Dad,

It’s tricky. You created me to be a listener before I am leader. It’s a lot of pressure to read a room (or a person) and come up with brilliant things to say before I’m even asked to say then. That way, I’m ready to go. How much simpler would it be to listen to you first, listen to people second and ask better questions? Asking good questions is hard, asking great questions takes an insight that only comes from you.

contemplatio

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