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> "The seeds of good deeds become a tree of life; a wise person wins friends." Proverbs 11:30 NLT

lectio // Proverbs 11:16-31

Another wisdom tip brought to you by Solomon and his circle of wisdom writers. Other translations say, "wins souls is wise." I used to think this was an evangelism passage, it is not. A wise person wins friends - they are winsome! Not for gain, not for some transactional exchange, but just because people are worth looking in their eyes, finding out their name and having a few moments of actual human conversation. People can feel it when you value them. I wasn't always friendly. I haven't always asked for people's names and asked about their day. I don't know when it started, but now I do it all the time. Oftentimes it embarrasses my adult children, and it used to bother my wife (see does it now too). Now they know it's just how it is. I've received free drinks or a free meal at quick-serve, but that's NOT why I do it. I don't want any special attention for it, I just want people to be seen and know that I remember them. This is what it means to be a good human - just be winsome to everyone you can. I believe that these seeds of good deeds do in fact become a tree of life! Sow them liberally.

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Dad,
You have, over the years, clearly changed my life in so many ways. This is one of them. I was so shy, so socially awkward, so distanced from people. But now, I am a friend-maker. More often than not, I get to be cheery, inquisitive and smiley to people everywhere I go. I am so different from who I was! I'm not sure when I'll see the "wisdom" benefits directly, but I know it is how you want me to live. You see me, you know my name, you love me. I can see others, know them just a little and begin to love them even in the briefest of moments. And, I believe you use those moments to plant seeds of good deeds to grow LIFE within them.

contemplatio

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