

“For who can know the Lord’s thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice? And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back?” Romans 11:34-35 NLT

lectio // Romans 11:33-36

The Apostle Paul lifts this sovereignty concept in such a way that causes us to really think about our relationship with God. He asks a few questions. The first one has been asked many times throughout history. Who knows God’s thoughts (or his ways)? God challenged Job with this question. Answer no one but God himself. The second two questions are so amazing! Who gives God advice? I have tried, and I am positive that many have as well, but God doesn’t seem interested in us advising him on world affairs, politics, suffering or even down to very personal areas like who I should date or marry, where I should work, how much money I should make or how my children should turn out. I’ve spoken to him on these things and he’s not once seen things my way. The second question is just funny to me. Who is in debt to God? How has anyone given God so much that (that he could not do himself), God should pay them back? Or another way to look at it is, who can give God what he doesn’t already own? So someone might say, “I gave God my entire life!” To which God would say, “I already owned it.” Maybe you’ve given a ton of money to the poor, doesn’t proverbs say that you are “lending” it to God when you do that? Yes, but all the money you gave was not yours! God put it in your account to manage it. It ALL belongs to him. I’m sure God blesses our decisions and our obedience and our sacrifices, but he doesn’t owe us that, he just loves to give. This idea of wisdom or indebtedness is pretty comical when you think about our relationship with God.

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Dad,

I joke about me advising you on how to run the world or my own life, but the truth is, I know from where I came. It is funny to think that I knew or know what I’m doing with my life. I know I’m supposed to know my purpose, but what if my purpose isn’t seemingly useful to those I work with or in the churches I’ve served. I am really okay with it, but folks seem to always be enamored by power and strength, commanding, solving, and taking the next hill. Telling stories, listening to the one, laughing and enjoying this life is not a skill set in great demand. So, I will live my life for the one who knows me, loves me and has gifted me to just be me. I will live for you!

contemplatio

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