

“The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception.”

Proverbs 14:8 NIV

lectio // Proverbs 14:1-10

Probably the hardest truth to face is the truth about yourself. I know that E.I. (Emotional Intelligence) is the popular thinking today. You can have all the smarts, all the skills and all the self-confidence in the world, but if you're not emotionally intelligent or socially aware of who you are, you won't get far in the life of leadership. What are your strengths? Or better, what are your weaknesses? Do you know both? Which do you operate out of? Do you spend your life trying to fight and fix your weaknesses or do you spend your life just riding off of your strengths? But maybe, I say, "I don't want to do either!" Maybe I don't want to be wise or foolish, maybe I don't want to DO anything with my life. Maybe I just want to keep my head down, mind my own business, not get involved in anything and just pass through life with no one ever noticing me. I get that. A lot of that describes how I used to live. Either I kept stumbling into leadership roles or most likely got frustrated that NO ONE wanted to lead! I felt the pressure of stepping up because everyone else said "NO!" Is that a good reason? Is that a proper motivation to live a fulfilling life? I kept feeling PUSHED! By God, by friends, by family - "go and lead!" they'd suggest. I am a RELUCTANT leader. People hate that I say that. "It sounds so negative, so fatalistic," they say. Ah, but I know myself, and I'm just not that great at it! I answer this aching question that the wisdom writers propose, "Do I know my own ways?" Answer, I do now! People say, "I'm my worst enemy," or "I'm harder on myself." That's what the proverb is saying. Better a self-reflection of reality than one of self-deception.

oratio

Dad,

I'm not complaining about how you made me, that is totally up to you. However, seeing or believing in what you have intended for me to be fruitful and productive in the Kingdom of God proves to be difficult under the shadow of "unbelief" simply in myself. I know it holds me back! And, there is a big part of me that WANTS to be held back. I don't like the responsibility of leading others! Some people really like that responsibility, I'm just not naturally one of them. As long as you keep putting opportunities ahead of me and I continue to be obedient and faithful, I'm sure you WILL accomplish your WILL in and through me. I yield!

contemplatio

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