"But Moses pleaded with the Lord, "O Lord, I'm not very good with words. I never have been, and I'm not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled." Then the Lord asked Moses, "Who makes a person's mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say." But Moses again pleaded, "Lord, please! Send anyone else." Exodus 4:10-13 NLT

lectio // Exodus 4:10-31

When did Moses pick up a speech impediment? Everyone forgets about this "flaw" in Moses. I have no idea where he suffered some kind of trauma that would show up in his speech. Uh, maybe something to do with being put in a river as a baby? Maybe the pressure of being an "adoptee" in the house of the most powerful kingdom of that time? Talk about pressure to perform! Maybe he was expected to be groomed to be a Pharaoh? I know one thing, Charlton Heston didn't help our image of Moses one bit! Verse 14 says, "God was angry at him." Moses had ZERO faith in himself and little faith in the voice that spoke from the bush. Think there was trust issues? I can relate to that. See Demosthenes (https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demosthenes). What kind of orator do you want to be? When Aeschines spoke, they said, 'How well he speaks.'But when Demosthenes spoke, they said, 'Let us march against Philip.'"

oratio

Dad,
This passage totally reminds me of the moment at Melodyland, when a total stranger approaches me after the service and nervously says, "God spoke to me and told me to tell you that you will be a great preacher." I stood in panicked silence trying to process what had just happened. Preacher? What? I was planning on being an electrician. Electricians don't have to give speeches or talk to people! I'm glad you weren't angry at me for the time it took to believe you and accept whatever you had for me - preacher or not. I'll take the title of storyteller though 😜

contemplatio

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