

“The Lord did not make this covenant with our ancestors, but with all of us who are alive today. At the mountain the Lord spoke to you face to face from the heart of the fire. I stood as an intermediary between you and the Lord, for you were afraid of the fire and did not want to approach the mountain. He spoke to me, and I passed his words on to you. This is what he said:” Deuteronomy 5:3-5 NLT

lectio // Deuteronomy 5:1-21

This passage just give me chills thinking of the profound impact Moses' message would have on the Israelites then and the entire world. God did not make this kind of covenant with humans before. But he did make some really big ones with men before. First it was one man, Adam, the “adamic” covenant. Then Noah. Then Abraham. Each one significantly more complicated, and having far-reaching effects. Each time, humans did not keep their promise, but God did. And here God gives the big ten and we all have at one time or another broken one or more of these rules, thus invalidating the entire contract. Two things stand out from this passage for me. One: People are still afraid of 🔥. Humans are still sketchy about approaching God himself and living to tell about it. Two: People would STILL really like an intermediary. A priest, a pastor, a representative, someone to take the edge off the raw, powerful, majestic presence of the creator of all that exists! We've basically been trained to not get too close to that kind of omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent power. One wrong move and ⚡, lightning strike and your toast. So we've been primed for a mediator from the beginning of our existence. Someone has to talk to God for me because he's mad at me, he hates me and wants me dead or at least miserable. What an awful way to live under that kind of contract or for sure I wouldn't want to live in that kind of God's house! You know where this is going? Do you know where this idea, this “mediation/mediator” idea leads? Of course you do! Jesus. Let me just tell you this. Since Jesus, there's NO NEED for a go-between anymore. Ya, I know it's a little terrifying to approach the fire, even today, but it makes everything so complicated when we try to go through someone else to have a conversation with God. Go direct! Save time, money and heartache - cut out the middleman!!!

Dad,

I am so thankful I met you as father. Sure, I realize now, as an adult that you could have fried me with the magnifying glass of your perfection like an ant on the sidewalk, but you didn't. You love me, you have forgiven me, you've saved my life and I only know you as my father. And, best of all for me... I love you.

contemplatio

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