

“Listen closely, Israel, and be careful to obey. Then all will go well with you, and you will have many children in the land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.” Deuteronomy 6:3 NLT

lectio // Deuteronomy 6:1-9

יְשׁוּעָה שְׁמַע Shema, Hear O Israel. The Lord is one. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.” Jesus ADDS to the Shema with Leviticus 19:18b, “and love your neighbor as yourself.” How wonderful is the front end of a promise. God keeps his word, his promises. We, for the most part are promise-breakers. It was the “obey” part of the promise and its the “obey” part still today. Rebellion is in our DNA, our blood. It’s not just the feistiness in us, it’s the willful selfish mostly. Don’t make the mistake of asking yourself “why couldn’t Israel just keep their end of the deal” or look down on them like “they” should know better. When you do that, you are staring down the wrong end of the barrel or deeply looking into the mirror - it is US, it is YOU. Back to the promise. How beautiful to think of children, laughing and playing in a land that is free, a land that has sustainable food and sweet treats for all. A picture of perfect, heaven, you might even think. This has always been God’s intention towards us. It was good from the beginning, is good today and will be good throughout eternity. What’s the catch? It’s certainly not being “good” or being sinless or winning over our own selfishness, it’s accepting God’s own solution to our continued disobedience - believe and live in the substitution, the sacrifice for our sin, Jesus. It seems simple, but seeing a human heart bow and do so regularly is far more complicated and nearly impossible. Our acceptance of God’s solution is a daily, sometimes hourly commitment of repentance and humility.

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Dad,

Oh how wonderful your promises are to us and how sad that we just can’t keep them. I am thankful that you know us, and hold us when we run toward you, not away from you. When you turn and admit and repentant and receive your forgiveness. It is SO very humbling to live with failure and weakness when it comes to perfection. But your love is greater than our struggles.

contemplatio

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