

“This is what the Lord says: “Your injury is incurable— a terrible wound. There is no one to help you or to bind up your injury. No medicine can heal you. Why do you protest your punishment— this wound that has no cure? I have had to punish you because your sins are many and your guilt is great.” Jeremiah 30:12-13, 15 NLT

lectio // Jeremiah 30:1-17

As a child, what was WORSE than the punishment for doing wrong? Waiting, sometimes all day long, for the punishment. The pain of waiting was the worse than the pain of punishment! This passage starts off with God telling Jeremiah to write down all that he has told Jeremiah. And God told him a lot! Then God talks about coming home, restoration and no longer bearing the shame. But not yet. God also reminds the entire people of Israel, that their sins cannot go unpunished. He speaks of this wound, this injury without no one to tend to it and no medicine can heal it. This wound with no cure. Because the sins are many and guilt is great. There are many stories where judgment is foretold and there was a period of time to wait to find out what the punishment would look like - and sometimes it took years to find out. Sometimes I wonder if I'm in an idyllic period of my life or it's just the "in between" waiting for punishment from past stupidities. You might think, "that sounds so negative!" Yeah, it is and it's hard to shake it. There's a whole thought process of punishment verses consequences. My sin is forgiven when I turn, when I ask and I am sincere about it. But then, there is this thing called consequences, of which there is no escape. I can try to rectify, run from or manipulate the circumstances, but normally, it's unavoidable. There are days that I feel the weight of being human and hate it. Maybe it's a Monday thing 😞.

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Dad,

Certainly, I am secure in my destination because of your grace and power to hold to the contract of my salvation. But I still look at my sin, my weaknesses, failures and dumb decisions and sigh. It's part a sigh of embarrassment, the other part is shame. I know there is no condemnation, but there are consequences to remind me of my frailty or selfishness. I'm not even thinking of anything specific, just in general. I am surprised and impressed that you can get anything accomplished through us! These feelings seem to fit well on a Monday. Your grace for the week is just ahead, thank you. I am grateful.

contemplatio

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