

“Then he instructed me, “Do not seal up the prophetic words in this book, for the time is near. Let the one who is doing harm continue to do harm; let the one who is vile continue to be vile; let the one who is righteous continue to live righteously; let the one who is holy continue to be holy.” “Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds.” Revelation 22:10-12 NLT

lectio // Revelations 22:8-21

We are not quite there yet! The Kingdom of God is here and still coming, but it's not complete. The Angel tells John, don't seal, don't wrap things up yet with all that he's seen and all that he's been instructed to write down. IT'S NOT OVER YET. I don't like it, and I'm sure the earth itself is sick of us, but there's more to come. Then the angel says leave those who do wicked go on with their wickedness! I am not happy with harmful, “vile” people! I DO NOT like BULLIES. Whether they are gang thugs high on their own sense of power or their crafty politicians, gaming the system to ravage the poor, while appearing to be just. I don't want to let one more moment of that to continue! But the angel encourages the righteous and holy to continue as well. I'm not seeing righteous and holy as “saintly” here, as much as I see them as humble and serving without attention or fanfare. True holy people don't even come off acting holy, they just seem normal, approachable and kind. Jesus IS God, the definition of righteous and holy and he was not only comfortable with the poor, but invited in by the locals. And the “religious” tagged him as a sinner because of proximity to sin! What a crack up! As far as I know, you can't “catch” sin from others? Although Paul says that bad company can corrupt good morals, if we aren't careful. Right after these verses, Jesus says, he is coming with his rewards. To repay people for ALL their deeds. Whoa.

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Dad,

Clearly, I hope I am one of those people, righteous and holy, that just continues to be Jesus to those I love and to those you send me to. At this point, I am not looking for a reward, I just want to make a difference while I'm here. I truly owe you my life. I just want to be right and do right as often as my little selfish heart will let me do good 😊.

contemplatio

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