

“Teach me your ways, O Lord, that I may live according to your truth! Grant me purity of heart, so that I may honor you. With all my heart I will praise you, O Lord my God. I will give glory to your name forever, for your love for me is very great. You have rescued me from the depths of death.” Psalms 86:11-13 NLT

lectio // Psalm 86

I've got to be honest about Israel's King David, I haven't always been a big fan of how he lived AFTER he came to power, after the wars and uniting the tribes. I always had a hard time with his decisions at the top and forgetting where he came from and how much favor was on him once he "arrived." Here in these Psalms, I am reminded of how many prayers and how much earnest, raw honesty he had in his writings and his songs. In these Psalms, I see far more of who he is, or at least, who he was. I turned to these psalms when I was young and under stress and emotional pain. I turn to these psalms today for wisdom and comfort to know that I too can express deep frustration, even anger towards the things in my life that are out of my control. Through this lens of seeing David's life and the gift he left for all of us in his collections of journals. And through this lens I can see David's heart and give him grace for his failures and shortcomings. He is human just like the rest of us!

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Dad,

I've written many times about how wonderful and awful it is to be human. Wonderful because we get to experience this grand life with such limited perspective and even less control. And in those restrictions, it leaves us feeling very childlike. Awful because we fail even with all our efforts to be good or do good. We struggle with comparisons to each other, even when we know we're all from the same dust bunny. However, we get to experience the absolute terror and mystery of your grace - and that is a beautiful thing.

contemplatio

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