

“For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just.” Psalms 51:3-4 NLT

## lectio // Psalm 51:1-17

This is why folks love King David, he's eventually honest and repents. He lays it out there for all of history to read and judge him. I wonder how many times, I prayed this exact prayer, using David's words as a model for willingly, knowingly sinning against God and having to come back a thousand times to pray this prayer? Oftentimes I think about our human ability to bifurcate our brain between the spiritual desire to please God and obey as well as the rebellious bent to desire to do our own thing and make excuses for it. I truly believe that when I grab the reigns of control to get what I want, when I want it I am reaching out in desperation to satisfy my selfishness in ways that I know will fail, and leave me empty. Or, worse, leave me craving even more, knowing that it didn't work the first time. These words David writes, "your judgment against me is just" reminds me of the good thief on the cross next to Jesus. He said, "And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds" Luke 23:41 ESV This thief understood what David was writing about. God stands just, we fall before him deserving judgment and death.

## oratio

Dad,

As I read Psalms for both comfort and conviction, I am challenged by my humanness and bent towards selfishness and ultimately, without you, total destruction. Not only of my life, but those around me that I love. Your judgement, then mercy gives me boundaries to remind me of my sin - MY SIN, not the fault of anyone else. I refuse to blame my past, my frustrations or my misperceived needs as an excuse for my sin. I come with penance and a contrite heart!

## contemplatio

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