

“Anyone who rebukes a mocker will get an insult in return. Anyone who corrects the wicked will get hurt. So don’t bother correcting mockers; they will only hate you. But correct the wise, and they will love you. Instruct the wise, and they will be even wiser. Teach the righteous, and they will learn even more.” Proverbs 9:7-9 NLT

lectio // Proverbs 9:7-12

I could just say, “yep, 100% true,” and leave it at that. It turns out, it’s not that simple. You’d think I would be able to take the position of the “wise” and guard or protect my amazing experiences by only giving it to the truly deserving, right? Nope. In a complete 180, I’m the fool. I’m the scoffer-mocker! If I am going to learn and be all “self-aware,” I must start with honesty. Do I receive instruction, wisdom, rebuke, correction or advice well? YIKES! Typing and reading those words caused discomfort in me. Better to give than receive? Uh, not in this case. I would much rather be dishing out my dusty, accumulated knowledge and stories of lore than receive. And, God forbid, what if the “ouch” list of words come from someone younger than me? I understand old people giving me the “what for” and I just have to sheepishly stand there and receive it because I respect my elders (even though I’m old myself now). Let me be blunt! I MUST receive rebukes and corrections from above, beside and below my age and experience! Why? Because I DO NOT wish to be THAT guy, the wicked fool! Do I want to be righteous? The wisdom writers ask/beg? YES, I say! Then I must be willing to RECEIVE. I’ve been corrected, many times, and you know what... I feel those words of defensiveness, avoidance, blame bubbling up to become words of insult. I let those feelings fester in my heart and spread the “insult” words to safe friends and families. Isn’t that awful? I am the scoffer-mocker Proverbs speaks of! I was always reading these “wisdom” passages from the first person, I am the smart one perspective. When I flip it around, I feel sorta sick.

oratio

Dad,

Your word has, once again, pricked my heart. I won’t complain about being all human like I normally rant about. I’m sure you get tired of that. I will say that I am normally humbled and feel a little deconstructed after deeply peering into the Bible and seeing a reflection of my true self. So, after the ache goes away, I need your help to NOT be a jerk, but instead to be humble and continue to receive correction and grace from you and others who give me a better view of reality. Thank you?

contemplatio

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