

“You welcomed him back with success and prosperity. You placed a crown of finest gold on his head. He asked you to preserve his life, and you granted his request. The days of his life stretch on forever. Your victory brings him great honor, and you have clothed him with splendor and majesty. You have endowed him with eternal blessings and given him the joy of your presence. For the king trusts in the Lord. The unfailing love of the Most High will keep him from stumbling.” Psalms 21:3-7 NLT

lectio // Psalm 21

Ah, back in favor with God! Back in prosperity and power. Back in the seat and wearing the crown. Wow, must feel good. It does raise some questions for me though. Was David out of favor while running from Philistines and King Saul? It seems like David FELT out of favor, out of sync with his plans. But was he out of God's will? It might look like it. He was hiding and hunted. Can you be hiding and hunted and be IN God's will? Maybe the favor of God was simply protection and being sustained through the “valleys,” in shadows of death. Haunted and hunted, yet fully in God's favor and plan. Was David being punished or prepared in the homeless, restless, survivalist times? I think we know the answer, we just don't want God's favor to look like that in our own life. Doesn't favor mean prosperity, power, thrones and crowns? Well, it can't look like starving, hiding, caves and campfires, now can it? Of course I'd feel more confident on a throne, more faith-filled with servants tending to my every whim, but is that where character, patience and wisdom is formed? Sure, I would no longer be living like a normal, common person struggling to live everyday, eking out a life for myself and my family. But hey, kings will be kings and commons be commons right? Am I at my best on a throne and under a crown? Or, do I remember the struggles and lead from a sense of humility? My perception of God's favor has changed since my life collapsed three years ago. I thought I was OUT of God's favor until he restored my position, my identity, my finances, my honor. But maybe I was in his favor all along, even without having any of the above!

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Dad,

You are a good provider. You are a great planner. I sit in a different perspective, now looking back over the past three years. You never left. You never quit providing. I just didn't have a throne or a crown, yet I DID have your favor! It has been the hardest lesson of all to build my life on being your son, NOT the positions and finances. I had your favor and didn't recognize it. Thank you for loving me in the caves and campfire moments of life.

contemplatio

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