

Restoration Ministries

Lectio Divina: an Experience of Listening Prayer www.restorationmn.org

Jeremiah 17:5-10 TMG

“Cursed is the strong one
who depends on mere humans,
Who thinks he can make it on muscle alone
and sets God aside as dead weight.
He’s like a tumbleweed on the prairie,
out of touch with the good earth.
He lives rootless and aimless
in a land where nothing grows.

7-8 “But blessed is the man who trusts me, God,
the woman who sticks with God.
They’re like trees replanted in Eden,
putting down roots near the rivers—
Never a worry through the hottest of summers,
never dropping a leaf,
Serene and calm through droughts,
bearing fresh fruit every season.

9-10 “The heart is hopelessly dark and deceitful,
a puzzle that no one can figure out.
But I, God, search the heart
and examine the mind.
I get to the heart of the human.
I get to the root of things.
I treat them as they really are,
not as they pretend to be.”

For Reflection and Prayer:

Was there a specific word or phrase which was impressed upon your heart or mind as you listened to the text? Reflect on that and bring your reflection in your prayer.

What emotions were stirred in you in this time of listening? Gently notice them, name them, feel them and simply offer them as your prayer to God.

What longing does this passage stir in you? In the quiet, simply be with that longing between you and God.

Journal your prayer that flows out of your meditation and contemplation of this passage.

Jeremiah 17:5-10 NLT

This is what the LORD says:

“Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans,
who rely on human strength
and turn their hearts away from the LORD.

⁶ They are like stunted shrubs in the desert,
with no hope for the future.

They will live in the barren wilderness,
in an uninhabited salty land.

⁷ “But blessed are those who trust in the LORD
and have made the LORD their hope and confidence.

⁸ They are like trees planted along a riverbank,
with roots that reach deep into the water.

Such trees are not bothered by the heat
or worried by long months of drought.

Their leaves stay green,
and they never stop producing fruit.

⁹ “The human heart is the most deceitful of all things,
and desperately wicked.

Who really knows how bad it is?

¹⁰ But I, the LORD, search all hearts
and examine secret motives.

I give all people their due rewards,
according to what their actions deserve.”

