



January 8 – Living Grounded

Our images of being grounded easily include images such as being a steady person, not prone to wild things. Or being grounded means you can't get to where you want on an airplane. Or – you got caught doing something you weren't supposed to, and your parent(s) grounded you. So, a lot of our images of being grounded inhibit us. But as is so often in God's economy, things are flipped on their heads. Join us this weekend as we begin the discovery of what it means to be grounded in God.

Texts:

Jeremiah 17:5-8

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.

⁶They 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.

⁸They 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.

Colossians 2:1-7

I want you to know how much I have agonized for you and for the church at Laodicea, and for many other believers who have never met me personally. ²I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. ³In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

⁴I am telling you this so no one will deceive you with well-crafted arguments. ⁵For though I am far away from you, my heart is with you. And I rejoice that you are living as you should and that your faith in Christ is strong.

⁶And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. ⁷Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

Questions:

- When you think about your life, what are the guiding principles you live by? What are the ones you know and the ones you live by without thinking about it?
- When you think about your faith life, what are the guiding principles you live by? What are the ones you name and what are the ones you live out without thinking?
- How resistant are you to deepening your relationship with God? What gets in the way? What scares you? What makes you nervous or doubtful? This week, try praying daily for God to take away the roadblocks you have to deepening your relationship with him – big or small. Then let God begin to work!

For further reflection this week:

Monday: Matthew 13:3-9

Tuesday: Matthew 13:18-23

Wednesday: John 15:5

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 15:58

Friday: Ephesians 3: 16-19