

Sunday, January 20, 2019 - "Rooted - Week 2 - Sending Roots" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Jeremiah 17:7-8, Ephesians 3:17-19, James 1:2-3, John 12:2

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Jeremiah 17:7 → We are blessed when we have an overflowing knowledge of God's love for us
  - All of our faith hinges on our understanding of God's love for us
  - The more secure you are that God loves you, the more we can navigate the trials and celebrate the victories
- When we're secure in God's love we're not offended by one another
- We are always bumping up against one another's fears and insecurities
  - The solution to this is being rooted in God's love
  - "The love of Christ that surpasses all understanding" (Ephesians 3:17-19)
- God asks us, "Do you trust me?"
- Chapter 17 in Jeremiah shows, you can trust God OR trust something else (we can be self reliant OR God reliant)
- Like a tree planted by water, that:
  - 1) Sends out its roots by the stream
  - 2) Does not fear when heat comes
  - 3) Leaves remain green
  - 4) Is not anxious in year of drought
  - 5) Does not cease to bear fruit
- Prosperity Gospel (If I do what I am supposed to then God will bless me) → this can lead to wondering what "we did wrong" or why God didn't come through
- v8: WHEN the heat comes → **Without the heat, the roots never go deep** - Doug Kempton
  - It's not passive (sends out its roots)
  - How do we participate?
    - Trust is forged in seasons of trial and difficulty (Moses and Israelites in the desert)
    - Asking that God would show us all he has in these seasons (James 1:2-3)
- If you don't trust God in the hard times, you will never trust God in the good times - Doug Kempton (John 12:2)
- Sometimes we want out...instead of all God has for us
  - We QUIT...(marriage, church, etc.)
  - We DISENGAGE...(stay but not really present)
  - We SELF MEDICATE...(so we don't have to deal with pain)
- Our hearts will deceive us if we don't rely on God and His Spirit
  - Show me where I'm missing it
  - Show me where I offend you
- Are you willing to surrender to a process of transformation?
- Are you willing to stay engaged in difficult relationships, to avoid self medicating?
- Are you drawing your life from anything other than God himself?
- Are you willing to be a seed that falls in the ground and dies so that in turn you can bear fruit in every season?

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. Where do you struggle to trust God the most? How is asking you to trust him more?
2. What does it look like and sound like for you to be secure in God's love for you?
3. What happens in your mind and your heart when you're not rooted in God's love?
4. When was a season of trial or difficulty that helped you to forge your trust in God?
5. How can you practically participate in allowing God to show you all he has in seasons of trial and pain?
6. Where are you drawing life from apart from God? How is God challenging you on that?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

**\*\*15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Luke 21 Tues: Luke 22 Wed: Luke 23 Thurs: Luke 24 Fri: Galatians 1

Songs from the weekend: [Higher - *Grace Worship*] - [Joy of the Lord - *Grace Worship*] - [Everlasting God - *William Murphy*] - [Praise (Be Lifted Up) - *Bethel Music*]