



Rooted for Renewal

Psalm 1:1-3 & Jeremiah 29:4-7

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Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.

Jeremiah 29:4-7

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in

number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

“To be rooted is perhaps the most important and least recognized need of the human soul.”

- Simone Weil

“It is rootlessness and not meaninglessness that characterizes the current crisis.”

- Walter Brueggemann, *The Land*

Rooted in God’s Presence & Rooted in a Particular Place

Psalm 1:1-3

Vitality - “a tree”

Security - “planted”

Capacity - “by streams of water”

Productivity - “yields its fruit”

Harmony - “in season”

Permanency - “leaf does not wither”

Prosperity - “whatever they do prospers”

Psalm 1:2

Whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

“For the Christian, if there is a possibility for human flourishing in a world such as ours, it begins when God’s word of love becomes flesh in us, is embodied in us, is enacted through us and in doing so, a trust is forged

between the word spoken and the reality to which it speaks; to the words we speak and the realities to which we, the church, point. In all, presence and place matter decisively.”

- James Davison Hunter, *To Change the World*

Jeremiah 29:4-7

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“We vow to remain all our life with our local community. We live together, pray together, work together, relax together. We give up the temptation to move from place to place in search of an ideal situation. Ultimately there is no escape from oneself, and the idea that things would be better someplace else is usually an illusion. And when interpersonal conflicts arise, we have a great incentive to work things out and restore peace. This means learning the practices of love: acknowledging one’s own offensive behavior, giving up one’s preferences, forgiving.”

- Vow of Stability from Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey