

The Climb Part 1

When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions.

Matthew 5:1-2 (MSG)

- Purpose to be Jesus's climbing companion.
- Ask yourself, who am I following? Am I an apprentice of Jesus or simply a distant admirer of Him? How do you know? Are you climbing?
- Following Jesus means I am committed to Him and to the process He desires to take me through.
- Climbing with Jesus means being taught by Jesus. If you look at your life, is it a reflection of being taught by Jesus or a reflection that you are self-taught?

Theme: For 2023 - Deeply Rooted

Preparation: Before You Start Climbing:

◦ Review your Past.

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. "But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. 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.

Jeremiah 17:5-8 (NLT)

Ask yourself:

a) Where have I been?

- My present condition is a reflection of where I have placed my roots in the past.

- My present position is an indication of who I am relying on for my future.

◦ Reflect on your Present.

And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let 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.

Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)

Ask yourself:

a) How am I doing today?

- Am I rooted in Christ?
- Am I built on Christ?
- Am I overflowing with thankfulness?

b) Where do I need to grow?

Instead, let us test and examine our ways. Let us turn back to the LORD.

Lamentations 3:40 (NLT)