

Patterns of Grace and Gratitude Week 3

Friday, April 30



“Surprise snow”

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts”. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD’s renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever.” Isaiah 55:6-13

Patterns help us stay organized and in control. When our patterns get interrupted or questioned we get a bit grumpy. How are we to live this life, and get everything done, and be who we are supposed to be for our families and our jobs? But God says there is hope in the surprise. There is goodness in the unbelievable. There is love in the unexpected. But we must trust that God’s goodness does have our best interests at heart and lean into the surprises, unbelievable and the unexpected if God is at work there.

The snow on April 21st covered whatever we had planted and planned for that day. And how did we respond? It gave us some irritation, but was there also a bit of grace there? Some unexpected family time? Or time to read? Or sort through thoughts or drawers? And as the prophet Isaiah says, quoting God, the snow watered the earth helping the unseen seeds flourish for the sower and the eater.

God’s word came to us that day, and this day, so that we might find joy and be led in peace. That is always welcome. Our response toward our interrupted thoughts and plans should always be watching

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for what God will do with that. How is God active there? How can we thank God for the snow that comes in the spring when we believe we've moved into a new season?