

**May 2nd, Shaking Things Up**  
**Part 5 in the series 'New and Improving'**

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

**READ Psalm 75:3 (NCV)**

**"The earth with all its people may shake, but I am the one who holds it steady."**

Not many of us have spent a lot of time worrying about earthquakes over the past few years, however many of us have spent time worrying about other kinds of shaking. What are some ways that the world seems to shake?

A: political shaking, social shaking, cultural shaking etc.

What are our two options when it comes to thinking about our shaking world?

A: root your thoughts in fear or love

Can you give an example of a thought process regarding this shaking world that's rooted in fear and another one that's rooted in love?

Pastor Jim mentioned a particular point that he hoped would stick with us. Did anyone write it down or can anyone remember what it was?

A: There are some things you will never see, some things you will never know, some things you will never understand until your mind, your thoughts, are rooted consistently in God. And God is love.

**READ Philippians 1:9-11**

**9** And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, **10** so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

What do you think Paul means by, "that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight"?

How would you describe the connection between God, love, wisdom, knowledge and insight?

**READ Matthew 26:48-53**

**48** Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." **49** Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

**50** Jesus replied, “Do what you came for, friend.”

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. **51** With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

**52** “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. **53** Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?

**READ Luke 22:47-51**

**47** While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, **48** but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

**49** When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” **50** And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

**51** But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

Why do you think Jesus’ follower struck the man’s ear with his sword? What might his reasoning have been?

How would you describe Jesus’ reaction to His follower drawing a sword?

What is Jesus’ response to this shaking world, both in this particular instance and on a larger scale?

What do you think the experience might have been like for the man who had his ear cut off and then healed?

How did Pastor Jim suggest that God holds the world steady?

A: through His people, those who belong to Him and have made Him Lord and master of their lives, as we live in obedience and submission to him, in relationship with Him.

How might rooting our thoughts in love and responding in love rather than fear affect this shaking world?