

HOPE

HOPE THAT DOESN'T DISAPPOINT

FINDING HOPE IN THE GOSPELS



week 3



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**Come to me all you who are
weary & carrying
heavy burdens,
and I will give
you rest.**

Matthew 11:28

Memory Verse Week 3



WEEK 3 – FINDING HOPE IN THE GOSPELS

MONDAY

Hope through the risen Christ



Matthew 4: 17 (NIV) *From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”*

As we look at Hope in the Gospels – I think that the following two quotes from Billy Graham are particularly relevant – “For the believer there is hope beyond the grave, because Jesus Christ has opened the door to heaven for us by His death and resurrection.”

“Hope is found in the promises God has given us. We can find so much hope in Scripture through the gift of eternal life made possible through His son, Jesus Christ. No matter what trials, temptations or pain we may suffer, we can always hold onto the hope God extends to us”.

In the above verse Matthew emphasised that Jesus’ ministry became established after His move to Capernaum and began in

earnest after the arrest of John the Baptist.

Jesus called on the people to not only to repent of their sins, but also to follow Him as the son of God. Both Jesus and John preached a similar message that people cannot participate in God’s Kingdom without first repenting of their sins and changing the course of their lives to embrace the hope that we all find in following the way of Christ.

- How do we live out the **hope** of the Gospel in following the ways of Jesus?



Prayer: Lord, help me to hear You saying, "I am your hope" over all the other voices. Lord, Your word says, You are the hope for the hopeless so I'm running to You with both hands stretched out and grabbing on to You. Fill me up with hope and give me a tangible reminder today that hope is an unbreakable spiritual lifeline. AMEN.

TUESDAY

There's never a good time to fear



Matthew 6: 31-33 (NIV) *So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

If worry was ever a good option, it would be when the circumstances of our lives are at their worst. Is now not the time to start worrying about the effects of the Covid-19 virus on our lives and possibly, as a result, where our next meal will come from? If this does not cause you to worry, then what will?

That is Jesus's point in this passage. If this is not a good time to be fearful, it should mean that there is never a good time to be fearful. For the people who call God Father, worry should never be an appropriate response to life. Human nature tempts us to fear

and be anxious, but this is not how God wants us to feel.

As unrealistic as it may sound to many of us, the hope of the resurrection is the confidence that Jesus wants us to have in His Father in heaven. It is actually just a matter of trusting God and His ability and willingness to provide for us.

- Are we trusting God with these most basic, bottom-line questions of our lives?



Prayer: Lord, help me to hear You saying, "I am your hope" over all other voices. Lord, Your word says, You are the hope for the hopeless, so help me to turn to You in all things. Fill me with hope and give me a tangible reminder today that hope is an unbreakable spiritual lifeline. AMEN.

WEDNESDAY

I will give you rest



Matthew 11: 28 (NIV) *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”.*

In this passage Jesus makes an extraordinary offer to all who hear Him. He tells them that if they are struggling and tired He can bring them relief.

Here is the historical implication of the passage. Jesus' Jewish listeners were engaged in a mighty struggle to know God the Father. Their religious leaders had placed enormous burdens on them and they were labouring to carry those burdens in hopes of being approved by God. In the previous verse (Matthew 11:27), Jesus said that He can reveal His Father to anyone, and now immediately afterwards, He offers rest to everyone who is weighed down.

Jesus is not necessarily talking about physical rest. The following verse (Matthew 11: 29), will describe it as *“rest for the soul.”*

From the view of the world, following Christ often means taking on difficult circumstances and giving up worldly pleasures. However, from the view of eternity—of salvation—following Christ means giving up the impossible task of carrying our own sin.

- Have you brought your Covid-19 “burdens” to Jesus and allowed Him to “give you rest?”



Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, I pray to thank You for helping me and guiding me through my days. There is a lot on my mind and a lot of responsibilities on my list right now. I ask for You to give me rest for my tired body and mind. Please lift the burdens from my shoulders. Comfort me and give my spirit peace. AMEN.

THURSDAY

Focus on others, not difficulties



Matthew 22: 37-39 (NIV) *Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself”.*

When asked by the Pharisees about the “great commandment,” Jesus responded with “...*love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*” So, the greatest commandment in all of scripture is to love God with the entirety of our being. When we think about the implications of this statement, we have to remember that the only reason we are able to love Him like this is because **He first loved us**. And where do we see this love and hope displayed? In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus himself.

It is through loving the Lord your God with your entire being that you are able to even consider a second commandment. “*A second is like it: You shall love your*

neighbour as yourself.” When we truly love and know God, we begin to love what He loves, **and He loves people**. One of our shared passions with God is, therefore, a love for our neighbour. We should be able to love other people with this same love simply because we have experienced it first-hand! Jesus’ life and death was the perfect example of this self-denying love and we are called to emulate it.

- In this time of ongoing difficulty and crisis, are we showing this “self-denying” love to those around us who need it most?



Prayer: Dear Father God, I know I don’t always give You the love You deserve. I disobey, act selfishly, and am foolish. Help me to love You with all my heart, soul, and mind. You gave everything for me and I want to return that love to You. AMEN.

FRIDAY

Simply trust His Word



John 11: 25 (NIV) *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die".*

Nothing in the life of a Christian happens without a purpose and every event that takes place, whether good or ill, is used by God for our spiritual growth and eternal benefit. During our time on earth, we are called to mature in the faith so as to be able to discover a little more of His gracious character, His omnipotent power, His omniscient wisdom, His unflinching righteousness, His unapproachable holiness and His unconditional love.

In this part of John's gospel, Martha's understanding of the enormity of Christ's Person and the redemptive work that He was yet to accomplish at Calvary, was incomplete. However, despite her limited understanding of God,

Martha came to trust His Word and so God was able to work in the circumstances of her life; to develop her faith and to deepen her dependence upon the Lord Jesus.

Let us never forget that, however small our faith may be, God is working every day to strengthen our trust and dependence on Him, no matter what circumstances we may have to face. His Word stands fast today - and His Word will stand fast forever.

- Do you have an understanding of the enormity of what Christ has done for you in your life?



Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to look to Jesus as my ever-present help and I pray that I may learn to place every single circumstance of life into His hands. Enlarge my faith in Your Word of truth and increase my understanding of Who You Truly are. AMEN