

Hope

Part 2

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Anchor Verse

- **1 Peter 1:3-5** - Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

What is Hope?

- Hope is the joyous anticipation of good.
- Hope is the fuel our faith that moves us from the present reality to our future glory.
- Hope is trusting in the resurrection power of Jesus Christ.
- Hope is an anchor for our soul.
- Hope is not, positive thinking, good vibes, wishing in the wind, it's a confident assurance in what God has said and promised!

Introduction

- Today we are looking at a story that will teach us all about hope, I believe that somewhere in here you're going to see where you are and maybe just maybe you're going to fill up with Hope today.

Week 2 – A Story of Hope

- **2 Kings 4:8-17** - Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food. And she said to her husband, "Look now, I know that this *is* a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly. Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there." And it happened one day that he came there, and he turned in to the upper room and lay down there. Then he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite woman." When he had called her, she stood before him. And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care. What *can* I do for you? Do you want me to speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?' " She answered, "I dwell among my own people." So he said, "What then is to be done for her?" And Gehazi answered, "Actually, she has no son, and her husband is old." So he said, "Call her." When he had called her, she stood in the doorway. Then he said, "About this time next year you shall embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant!" But the woman conceived, and bore a son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her.

Hidden Hope

- She had buried hope for a child so deep that even the promise was too hard to bear.
- Let's set the scene here, this woman was obviously a God-fearing lady that trusted Elisha. I mean she made him a room in her house
- She wasn't Greedy, Elisha asked her what he (a very influential guy) could do for her, she says nothing!
- When Elisha and Gehazi come up with the idea of a child, she changes her whole tone. "No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant!"
- This tells me that they struck a chord, this is a desire and a hope so buried that even the idea of this causes her to question the Man of God and tell him not to lie to her.
- In my imagination, I see this moment and hope being born!

Question: *What Desires and Hopes have you buried so deep you stopped asking God for them? What good and right things has time stolen away, and your heart has given up?*

Application: *She made a space for God in her life and then Hope (Promise) came. What if you decided that upon leaving church today you were going to make some space in your life for God? What needs to be gotten rid of, what room in your life needs to be cleaned out so you can have room for Him and his blessing?*

Painful Hope - Elisha Raises the Shunammite's Son

- **2 Kings 4:18-26** - And the child grew. Now it happened one day that he went out to his father, to the reapers. And he said to his father, "My head, my head!" So he said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother." When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then he died. And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut the door upon him, and went out. Then she called to her husband, and said, "Please send me one of the young men and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and come back." So he said, "Why are you going to him today? *It is* neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath." And she said, "It is well." Then she saddled a donkey, and said to her servant, "Drive, and go forward; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you." And so she departed, and went to the man of God at Mount Carmel. So it was, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to his servant Gehazi, "Look, the Shunammite woman! Please run now to meet her, and say to her, '*Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?*' " And she answered, "*It is well.*"

Story (please watch the message at gracechapel.net for the full story & application)

- I want to pause here, I need you to understand something about me and my family as it pertains to Hope and this story. On June 23 2014 Shepherd Ray Gilchrist was born, a beautiful healthy baby boy. When our youngest son Shepherd was 3 months old ...story...
- I share all this with you to let you know that Hope is everything to us, from the midst of the tragedy, the guilt of the accident, and our Hope that shepherds story isn't just an accident, but by God's Grace it will impact the world. And as grateful I am for all that, I still have hope every day that my boy will be healed, that his brain will function the way it was designed, that he will run, and play, and make messes! That he will find his voice and speak! Hope has been fuel to my soul and I'm here today because I want more and I know where to find it!!! Hope isn't a cool idea or principle, its water to our soul!

- **2 Kings 4:27-37** - Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the LORD has hidden it from me, and has not told me." So she said, "Did I ask a son of my lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me'?" Then he said to Gehazi, "Get yourself ready, and take my staff in your hand, and be on your way. If you meet anyone, do not greet him; and if anyone greets you, do not answer him; but lay my staff on the face of the child." And the mother of the child said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So he arose and followed her. Now Gehazi went on ahead of them, and laid the staff on the face of the child; but there was neither voice nor hearing. Therefore, he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, "The child has not awakened." When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed. He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD. And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm. He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. And he called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Pick up your son." So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; then she picked up her son and went out.

Review of Scripture

- The Boy is Promised, a deep desire that gave her hope again
- He is born and raised up
- Tragedy strikes and in one day her whole world changes

Hopeful response

- She takes the dead child directly to the Man of Gods room, lays him on Elisha's bed and shuts the door!
- Hope is found when you take your pain back to your promise. Even in her Chaos she knew where to find Hope!
- So, she shuts the door and heads down stairs, she sends for a donkey and a driver and when questioned her response is desperate and yet full of Hope, "It is Well"
- She isn't interested in discussing, tweeting, Facebooking, she has 1 mission and that's to go to the place where she can find HOPE!
- She makes her way to Elisha and there is an interesting exchange, she falls at his feet and Gehazi tries to push her away
- I want to make mention of Elisha's response: Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the LORD has hidden it from me, and has not told me."
- This was a prophet of God that has the ability to see what God reveals, yet in this crisis, the source is hidden from him, this is the same guy that took no response and was able to find her deepest desire.
- Sometimes in the pain of tragedy, hope is found through saying what it is you need! For some reason this was necessary for her to receive what she came for!
- And how does God respond?
- No more than she gets the first few words out Elisha see and responds, they make their way and they heal her son!

My prayer if you get nothing else today, is learn from this nameless woman how to respond to tragedy. She doesn't become a victim, she doesn't start the blame game, she doesn't tell everyone what happened, she went to the place that could actually make a difference!

Observation: *Jesus promised us that in this life we will have struggles, the word there paints a picture of things pinching in around you, I like the analogy of rock city, where the walls come in close and you can feel them coming in on you. These are the moments we can lose our minds and freak out, or we can reach out to the anchor of our souls! We can HOPE in a Good father and loves us and gave himself for us. What I'm learning in this story, is that this woman's response of Hope was the right one!*

Redeeming Hope

- So, what about when you're through the crisis, it's hard when we start looking back. For Amanda and I the hard part has been guilt. Why did this have to happen? Yes, good has come, but we sometimes fall into that pit. We will ask who's fault it was! Can I just add, sometimes as Christians we say things that mean well and they don't help. When people said it's not your fault it used to make me so mad, and it wasn't until A CLOSE friend, looked at me and said maybe it is your fault, that just means you need Jesus today, then I started to find some freedom and healing.
- Rescuing people from experiencing what's real sometimes steals from them the ability to see God clearly!
- **2 Kings 8:3-6** - It came to pass, at the end of seven years, that the woman returned from the land of the Philistines; and she went to make an appeal to the king for her house and for her land. Then the king talked with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, "Tell me, please, all the great things Elisha has done." Now it happened, as he was telling the king how he had restored the dead to life, that there was the woman whose son he had restored to life, appealing to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, "My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life." And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed a certain officer for her, saying, "Restore all that was hers, and all the proceeds of the field from the day that she left the land until now."
- 7 years later, the boy is good, lots of life has happened
- Her story is told before a King and it just so happens to be the same day that she comes to plead for her lands to be restored.
- 7 years of wandering why, what was that for, what was that all about?
- She stands before a king with nothing more than a story of what God had done, and behold ALL things are restored!

Update & Closing Thoughts

- Where are we now, with Shep? So, to bring things full circle, or at least as far as possible, we are still right in the middle of our Hope story, we have seen the miraculous and pray every day for more. We have Shep in amazing Therapy and we are seeing him do amazing things, and yet we still have Hope for more! Shep is a vibrant part of the Gilchrist family, here is a recent shot of him hanging out in the garage gym laughing at us!
- I am not sure why our story or your story has unfolded the way it has, but I stand before you today as a messenger of HOPE, that your pain hasn't been overlooked, that your story has been heard and that there is restoration coming! I can't promise what it will look like, I don't know when it will be, but we serve a good father that loves us and gave himself for us and who promises that whatever work he started in us He is faithful to finish!
- Let HOPE arise! Wherever you are in the story today, do not lose heart! He is for you and because He is Good we have HOPE!

Discussion Questions

1. What desires and hopes have you buried so deep you have stopped asking God for them?
 2. What good and right things has time stolen away and your heart has given up?
 3. Where can you make space in your life (your schedule, your home, etc.) for Hope to come?
 4. What is one actionable thing you're going to do (or not do) this next week to make that space?
 5. Where in your life do you need Hope to arise?
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