

Hope

Part 5

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We have been learning about Hope over the past four weeks.

- **Week 1** (Pastor Jimmy)
 - **Defined hope.**
 - Hope is the joyous anticipation of good.
 - Hope is the fuel for our faith.
 - Hope is an anchor for our souls.
- **Week 2** (Pastor Ian)
 - **We can have hope in the midst of tragedy.**
 - Ian shared his story with us — a story of hope that is found in the midst of tragedy.
 - A story of Hope — 2 Kings 4:8-17
 - Hope is found when you take your pain back to the promise.
- **Week 3** (Pastor Ian)
 - **Christ is in me, the hope of glory.**
 - Because of Jesus we can live with a new identity in Christ!
- **Week 4** (Pastor Jonathan)
 - **We can abound in hope!**
 - Jonathan shared with us his journey with fear —and how Jesus set him free!
 - We can live filled with hope, excess, pressed down, overflowing!

Hope — the joyous anticipation of good, the fuel of our faith, the anchor of our souls, our strength in the midst of tragedy, Christ in us-the HOPE of glory, a life abounding with hope that overwhelms our fears, overcomes our struggles, and overflows to those around us...

Hope for the Weary and Heavy-hearted

When tragedy strikes when nothing makes sense, when everything is upside down — we need real hope. Something solid to hold onto.

Is your heart heavy? Do you feel overcome? Overwhelmed? Exhausted?

Then you need to grab ahold of hope this morning.

There is hope for the weary and heavy-hearted today... and for every person.

- **Matthew 11:1-3**

Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities. ² And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples ³ and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”

What’s going on here? John was weary and heavy hearted. If there was ever a moment to run low on hope — it was then. John sends his disciples to ask Jesus, “are you the one or should we expect someone else?” Same John that said, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”

- **Matthew 11:4-6**

⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: ⁵ *The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.* ⁶ And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”

Things do not always go how we expect. John knew that Jesus was the Messiah — but He wasn’t coming in military power and restoring Israel as expected — John needed some hope!

- **Matthew 11:7-11**

⁷ As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings’ houses. ⁹ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ For this is *he* of whom it is written: ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.’ ¹¹ “Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Notice — Jesus doesn’t correct John — he blesses him. There is no one greater than John — he is a Man’s man. Strong, unrelenting, tough, he holds the honor of preparing a way to Jesus.

Jesus responds with what He is doing: He says; tell him about what I am doing.

**Jesus doesn’t speak to what you expect Him to do.
He can only tell you about what He is doing.**

- **Matthew 11:25-27**

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, **Lord of heaven and earth**, because you have **hidden these things from the wise and learned** and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. ²⁷ “**All things have been committed to me by my Father.** No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

Verses 20-24 Jesus warns the cities where He preached that did not repent.

We are going to slow down and go to verse 28 — to walk slowly through two verses that have the ability to set us free if we get ahold of them. Take a breath and listen to Jesus...

- **Matthew 11:28-30**

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

- **Come to me!**
 - When people are going through a tragedy they don't need a lot of words.
 - They need a person. Who will walk it out with them.
 - Jesus says...Come to Me. Jesus himself.
 - Not an idea or a principle.
 - Not a program.
 - Not a formula.

Real Hope is found in Jesus

- **Matthew 11:28-30**
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**We all have a burden that we are carrying with our lives.
Everybody is different — but we all are carrying something.**

- **Matthew 11:28-30**
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*Have you ever been so weary that a vacation sounds exhausting?
Have you ever been too tired to rest?*

True rest for the weary is a gift given to us by God.

- Rest. True rest is not a nap, or a vacation.
- True rest is walking with Jesus — no matter what the circumstances are.

The promise of entering His rest still stands for the people of God! (Hebrews 4)

- It is knowing that God is with you in the battle, even though you have to fight for it, it's still yours to take.

How do I get ahold of that kind of Hope?

I need rest for my soul!

- **Matthew 11:28-30**
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What is a yoke? What does “take my yoke mean?”

A Yoke: A bar or frame that is attached to the heads or necks of two work animals (such as oxen) so that they can pull a plow or heavy load. A yoke was designed to limit the animal's movements to moving in the same direction and dispersing the load between them if there were multiple animals.

Pull ahead, lag behind, until you are trained to walk in step — the load will always be heavy until you are in step with the teacher.

- **What does it look like to pull ahead of Jesus?**
 - Do you ever feel like God doesn't really care — so you better do something?
 - Do you ever take action before you think? Or pray?
 - Do you ever impulsively take things into your own hands.
- **What does it look like to lag behind?**
 - Sometimes you want to stop, or slow down, or give up...
 - Slow to obey what God is showing you, convicting you of, gently leading you in?
 - Want to perfectly understand before... Searching for formulas to make life work?
 - Unwilling to bear the weight of the life God has given you?
- **Matthew 11:28-30**

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Jesus is a gentle, humble teacher.

- **There are many different ideas about what God is like.**
 - Have you ever felt that God is **distant**?
 - Have you ever felt like God is **controlling or cruel**?
 - You are scared, you feel like a constant failure, and you feel like you are alone.
- **Here we have a very different picture in Jesus of who God really is. Jesus is saying...**
 - I want to be **RIGHT NEXT TO YOU**.
 - Helping you along and **gently, humbly directing you**.
 - You are safe, we will figure this out together, you are not alone.
- **Matthew 11:28-30**

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

My yoke doesn't feel light — it feels heavy

- **Everyone has to carry some kind of burden.**

Whose yoke is it?

- *Is it HIS yoke you that you are carrying?*
- Maybe you are pulling a weight that is not yours to pull (you can't pull someone else's).
- Maybe you are pulling alone- you have never invited God really into the details of your personal life.
- Maybe you feel weary because you need to put down your yoke, and pick up His.
- ***You are not alone. Jesus will pull alongside you.***
True Hope is found in Jesus as he comes alongside us daily to teach us how to live.

Why is it easy?

- If its heavy, it's not Jesus yoke. His burden is light.
 - If you are weary and heavy laden maybe the yoke you are in is not Jesus' yoke. Why do people shy away from the easy yoke? It's too good.
 - It sounds too good to be true.
 - Why am I looking for something difficult — to glorify myself?
 - Maybe you would rather carry your own burden alone — don't like to depend...

What does hope really look like? *It looks like walking with Jesus, learning from him, being taught by him, and finding our rest in His strength — no matter how weary you feel.*

What does it feel like? *This is harder for us to get ahold of...it feels easy. When we pull ahead or lag behind life is a lonely burdensome business. But when we are in step with him everything begins to change. Things that were impossible before all of sudden become possible.*

Don't get ahead of Him, or lag behind

Start simply by coming to Jesus, laying down your yoke, and up putting on his.

- True Hope is for the weary and burdened.
- True Hope is found in the person of Jesus. Not a formula.
- True Hope gives us rest for our souls. It is not a nap or a vacation. It's a satisfying adventure.
- True Hope is knowing that his gentle guidance will keep you on track.
- True Hope is found in the easy yoke of Jesus.
- True Hope is Jesus pulling alongside you. He can do more than you could ever do alone.
- True Hope is found in Jesus.

- **Jesus is ready to hand out hope right now. Do you want some?**

Let's remember what we learned throughout this series together.

- *HOPE — the joyous anticipation of good, and the fuel of our faith.*
- *HOPE — the anchor of our souls, our strength in the midst of tragedy*
- *Christ in me — the HOPE of glory*
- *A life abounding with HOPE that overwhelms our fears, overcomes our struggles, and overflows to those around us*
- *If you want to find rest for your soul, Jesus is here right next to you and wants to carry the weight you can't carry*

JESUS IS SAYING TO YOU RIGHT NOW...

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Discussion Questions

1. When Jesus doesn't do what we expect Him to do, why does He only tell us about what He is doing?
 2. When people are going through a tragedy, what do they need?
 3. Have you ever been so weary that a vacation sounds exhausting?
Have you ever been too tired to rest?
 4. How can you find true rest?
 5. When you take on Jesus' yoke, do you have more of a tendency to pull ahead or lag behind Him?
 6. Why would your yoke feel heavy?
 7. In this whole sermon series, which aspect of HOPE has meant the most to you?
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