The Hard Road of Hope *Psalm 43*

Key Scriptures:

Psalm 35:1	Psalm 22:1-2	Mark 15:34
Psalm 34:18	2 Corinthians 4:8-9	Romans 5:1-5
2 Corinthians 12:9	Isaiah 40:31	Jeremiah 29:11

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Discouragement is not an uncommon feeling that overtakes us. When things are going well, it's not hard to talk about hope. But in the midst of hopelessness, by nature, the story is a little different. What if hope is not actually what we think it is? We will unpack that today.

The Psalmist of Psalm 43 lost hope when:

1. He was _____ by the _____.

Psalm 43:1 NIV
Vindicate me, my God, and plead my cause against an unfaithful nation. Rescue me from those who are deceitful and wicked.

2. Feeling like ____ _____ him.



Psalm 43:2 NIV
You are God my stronghold. Why have you rejected me?
Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?

3. He became his own _____ _____.

Psalm 43:5 NIV
Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?

What Scripture teaches hope really is:

- Hope is not the ____, it's the _____.

2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV
"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

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HALLENGE: *What are some of the things you have hoped for the most, especially as you face challenges in your life? Were those things the* ***end*** *you were hoping to arrive at? Now that you understand that hope is the* ***means****, how might that hope look different? Does this help you to better understand your goals? Commit this to prayer.*