

Easter Sunday 2022

Hope in the Dark

Q&A Today

- Text “ECQA” to 97000
- Send us your questions!

NOTES ARE IN APP - Not on screen - Download

- <https://theelement.church/app>

Connect with us - Next Steps Form

- Text “Element” to 97000

EGroups

- theelement.church/egroups

MSU NOW - Worship Night

- April 27th - 7:30 - Wells Hall B 115

GIVING TIME:

- **4 WAYS TO GIVE**
- ONLINE: <https://theelement.churchcenter.com/give>
- APP: Give Tile
- TEXT: Text an “amount” to 84321
- MAIL: PO Box 52 East Lansing MI 48826

Q&A Today

- Text “ECQA” to 97000
- Send us your questions!

INTRO - Hope in the Dark

The Dark

The Hope in the dark

The Tension in between

We are actually talking about keeping a hold of hope when it's dark.

We are talking about Easter - Death & Resurrection.

These are hard things to wrap our heads around.

I want to start today and talk to you about my:

- **Shark IQ self empty robot vacuum cleaner.**

ILL. Shark IQ Self Empty Robot Error #9 code

- I noticed sharkie hadn't been cleaning lately
- Checked my Sharkie App & sure enough...
- Error Code #9 - "Robot dust bin had been removed, jammed or needs to be re-inserted"
 - Pull it out, push it in (Error Code #9)
 - Pull it out & bang it on the trash can (Error Code #9)
 - Empty Robot dust Bin (Error Code #9)
 - Check the dock - chute that accepts robot & then sucks the dirt up and into a Dock Dust bin (Error Code #9)
 - Dock dust bin is ABSOLUTELY chocked full
 - No worries - that's they problem, no where for the dirt to go
 - Empty Dock dust bin (Error Code #9)
 - Clean robot Dust Bin again, clean filters, scrape dust from crevices, dis-assemble & put back together... (Error Code #9)
 - NOPE
 - Error Code #9
 - **Thought:** Throw this thing away? Broken.
 - I LOSE HOPE...??

Pause - application to life

- something wrong in life - setback, disappointment
 - I know all is NOT as trivial as a dust bin on a sharkie
 - loss of a graduation
 - loss of a job
 - If you are young - loss of a toy or the moving of a best friend
 - If you are older - maybe the loss of health
 - all of us - loss of a loved one
- Keep getting the same error code - Error Code #9
- AND We've tried everything we know to do - it's not working
- Error Code #9
- **AT SOME POINT WE HAVE TO DECIDE**
 - Is this leading somewhere OR
 - Is it time to give in = LOST HOPE
- INVITE to the thought
 - "THIS LIFE THING IS BROKEN"
 - "Time to throw it away"
 - This Hoping in God things is broken...

Q: What if THAT DECIDING MOMENT is what the Bible is speaking to?

IS 40:28-31

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one

can fathom. 29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Q: What if there was **more to the story** than what we see?

ILL. Sharkie

- I noticed the chute on the dock, **before** the dust cup in the dock
 - Is jammed with compact Dust Furball
- Grab a Wooden skewer, kabob stick
- I move the furniture to unplug the dock from the wall
 - **sharkie is looking feverishly for the dock**
 - CONFUSION
 - Bumping into the wall
 - **“Easy sharkie. Just hold on... I’m working on something”**
 - Q: Anyone in here? confusion, bumping around?
 - God says, “easy _____. Just hold on... I’m working on something.
- I hold the dock over the garbage, start fishing the kabob stick in
- Fuzzball galore
 - Some garbage, wrappers fall out (maybe a fix?)
 - A battery falls out, a sticky one (there it is)
 - Then a screwdriver falls out (a mini one but still)
- Me & Sharky feeling better
- Sharkie steps into HIS PURPOSE

APPLICATION:

We ask God to quickly fix our dust cups but
God is leading a process toward the screwdriver.

We get lost in our circumstances and
we lose hope in the process of
God REVEALING THE DEEPER SOLUTIONS

Hope - a state of anticipation

- Qava
- Qa-Vah (to wait)
 - Qav = Cord, Measuring line (tension)

- ILL. A rubber band/cord pulled tight in tension, then the release - Qavah (the wait/hope/anticipation/tension → resolution)

Keeping hope in the tension

believing that God is getting to the screwdriver
when we keep getting error #9 and bumping into walls

The outcomes are not what we expect

The timing is not what we expect

The desires we have are not what God wants for us

We experience copious amounts of pain

We don't understand

We lose sight of what He is doing

WE LOSE HOPE IN THE DARK!

Learning HOPE IN THE DARK strengthens us
Error Code #9 → Screwdrivers = "Got it God"

ILL. Sacred Fire:

“At a lecture at the University of Louvain, Edward Schillebeeckx was once asked: If you had to submit one Biblical text that you felt named our faith situation today, what would that text be? His answer: ‘the disciples walking on the road to Emmaus on Easter Sunday.’... the disciples walking toward Emmaus are deeply discouraged, their once firm faith has been shattered, but they are walking with Jesus and yet are unable to recognize Him. The situation of today’s Christians in our secularized culture is basically the same:... As adult Christians today we often find ourselves living in that time between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, when the God we were raised on has been crucified but a sense of the resurrection has not yet sufficiently illuminated our imaginations so that we can recognize the God who is walking beside us... the disciples are trying to walk away from a place where Christ has been humiliated toward a place of human consolation [Emmaus]... the crucifixion was understood as a humiliation so great that it is impossible to integrate it into their faith. It effectively ends their faith and hope... given this kind of humiliation there can be no God... Jesus restructures their imagination in a way that lets them see that not only *can* this humiliation be integrated into their vision of faith, it is indeed the *key* piece to help them integrate everything else...”

EASTER

ILL. The most relevant Bible passage to our current situation as Christians?
Road to Emmaus?

They are in the dark

8 keys from the passage = how to develop HOPE IN THE DARK

Luke 24:13-24 NIV

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

19 "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. 20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. 22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning 23 but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. 24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

- They were looking for a political messiah
- They were looking for a dust cup - error code #9 (that wasn't the fix needed)
- THIS THING IS BROKEN = No Hope
- Walking with a Resurrected Jesus and not seeing Him

God is ALWAYS working

Luke 24:25-35 NIV

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. 29 But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together 34 and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

As we close: A few things we can DO PRACTICALLY to keep HOPE in the dark (from this story):

1.) Keep going

17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

2.) Stay open to what you might be missing

21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.

3.) Fight bitterness

18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

4.) Remember the Truth

27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself

5.) Keep serving and loving others

29 But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over."

6.) Commune with Him

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him

7.) Do His will... now

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together

8.) Never lose hope

32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

While they were dismayed at the loss of Him as a political messiah, they were being introduced to Him as their Savior...

Every circumstantial setback, was a setup to know Him more

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NIV)

17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Colossians 1:27

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

DEVELOP HOPE IN THE DARK

The Resurrection is the greatest picture of Hope in the Dark

- CONFUSION?
- Bumping into the wall?
- **“Easy sharkie. Just hold on... I’m working on something”**
 - Q: Anyone in here? confusion, bumping around?
- God says, “easy _____. Just hold on... I’m working on something.

God has Got that wooden stick & He is prodding around
“Hold on, easy, I’m working on something...”

- Keep going
- Stay open to what you might be missing
- Fight bitterness
- Remember the Truth
- Keep serving and loving others
- Commune with Him
- Do His will... now
- Never lose hope

Raise your expectations in the presence, power, faithfulness of God!

Even when you keep getting Error #9 codes

God is working - HIM

WORSHIP - PRAYER & BLESSING

Reminders

- Prayer Teams
- Parking Validations