

Hope

12.26.21

Luke 2: ²⁵ At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him ²⁶ and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, ²⁸ Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace,
as you have promised.

³⁰ I have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared for all people.

³² He is a light to reveal God to the nations,
and he is the glory of your people Israel!"

³³ Jesus' parents were amazed at what was being said about him.

^{36a} Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple..

³⁸ She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

I. -Hope is a lifestyle for followers of Jesus

Defined-- expectation/confidence

Hebrews 6:-¹⁸ So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. ¹⁹ This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary

II. -Hope says.....

We know there is a heaven

Col 1:5 which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.

We know there is help in my situation

John 16:7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate^a won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you

III. -Hope changes us!

Creates gratitude

29-32²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised.

Creates boundaries

I John 3:3 And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.

Creates a constant craving for Jesus to come back

Titus 2:13 while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.

Creates a spiritual toughness

I Peter 1:3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation,

IV. -Hope can be interrupted at times

Many tough believers lost hope

Jonah 4:8 And as the sun grew hot, God arranged for a scorching east wind to blow on Jonah. The sun beat down on his head until he grew faint and wished to die. "Death is certainly better than living like this!" he exclaimed.

V. -Hope may need some "boosters" at times

Prayer---[Romans 12:12](#) Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.

Scripture--- Romans 15:4 Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

Community---Proverbs 12:25_Worry weighs a person down;
an encouraging word cheers a person up.

Vi. -Hope will have an impact on others

I Peter 3:15 Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.

"Our Christlike reaction to a "hopeless" situation can make a huge impact on those around us who may be without hope! MM

Close:

"The very word "hope" is like turning on a light in the darkness.

It's like bringing joy into a sorrowful situation.

It's like introducing life into a scene of death.

Hope is a word that immediately brightens, lifts, produces joy.

Life without hope is bleak" John MacArthur