

Hope Deferred

Proverbs 13:12a “Hope deferred makes the heart sick...”

- I. The hope for justice now.
 - a. John the Baptist – this isn’t right! Even though he’s had such revelation in the past, his heart has become sick and has created doubt. “Blessed are those who are not offended by Me.” (Matt. 11:6)
 - b. The two men on the road to Emmaus.
 - i. Luke 24:7 ESV “They stood still looking sad.”
 - ii. Are you the only one who doesn’t know? The chief priests and rulers had him condemned to death and crucified, but we hoped that he was the one who would redeem Israel.
 - c. The crowd – “Hosanna, hosanna...” to “crucify him, crucify him.”
 - i. Psalm 2:9-12 ESV “You shall break^[a] them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”
 - ii. Anger because their hearts have become sick when they realized he couldn’t be the messiah. We survive by doing what those in control want us to do.
- II. The two-fold mission of the Messiah.
 - a. Mark 8:29-38 ESV “And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” ³⁰ And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”
 - i. He waited for their recognition before He corrected their view of Messiah.

- ii. Confirmation bias made them read right over Isaiah 53, Daniel 9, and Psalm 118.
- b. They were told but they refused to listen. After Jesus was resurrected they still wouldn't listen.
 - i. Mark 16:11 "...they would not believe it."
 - ii. Mark 16:13 "The did not believe it."
 - iii. Mark 16:14 "He rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart."
 - iv. Thomas wouldn't believe even after He appeared to the eleven.
- c. There are two comings of Messiah and if you don't differentiate them you will become sick in heart because of the injustice we all experience in this world. How could God be loving and all-powerful and allow the world we're living in? There's a way that seems right, that's not right, but we have to get into the mind of God.
 - i. Luke 4:18-19 quotes Isaiah 61:1-2 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him."
 - ii. In His second coming Jesus will bring the day of the vengeance of our God. He will come again in glory to bring ultimate justice to the whole earth.

III. Readjusting our hope.

- a. The dream I had last Sunday. "Don't seek for justice in this world; seek for redemption." Then I handcuffed him to the steering wheel while everyone else went grocery shopping. "Those who seek for justice will be left with nothing in this world."
- b. Three reasons why seeking ultimate justice in this life doesn't work:
 - i. You don't know what justice looks like and don't have the means to bring it. *Jack Reacher books and The Equalizer movies. Impartial, empowered with skills, intelligence – not just lower level, all the way to the top. No hesitancy or squeamishness – Denzel – this is God's wrath.
 - ii. Even if justice is done in your eyes, it doesn't heal the hurt they caused in you. It feels empty because justice doesn't make you better.
 - iii. You don't want justice for your own sins – ultimate justice in this life would leave you condemned as well.
- c. Seek redemption:

- i. First for yourself – it's available because of the cross.
- ii. Leave justice to God, and forgive. *The favorable year of the Lord.
Romans 12:19 ESV "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it^o to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." God's wrath now is giving them over to their own darkness, God's wrath then is terrifying. Sin will be judged and punished, either in Jesus, or you bear it yourself. *When we choose to forgive, there's also healing for our heart.
- iii. See the world through blood colored glasses – not dark glasses of cynicism, not rose colored glasses of denial, but blood colored glasses of redemption – your shopping cart will be full!