

HOPE AND DREAMS

May 7, 2017

WONDERFUL MERCY CHURCH



WHAT IS THE MOST REAL THING?

- We cannot align ourselves with spiritual realities without spiritual help
- We need help to believe that the thing God said, the thing we cannot yet see, is the most real thing



THE WAY THINGS REALLY ARE

- **Hagar:** “When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, ‘Do not let me look on the death of the child.’ And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.” (Genesis 21:15-16 NRSV)



THE WAY THINGS REALLY ARE

- **Israel:** “Then the people of Israel said to Moses, ‘Look, we are doomed! We are dead! We are ruined! Everyone who even comes close to the Tabernacle of the Lord dies. Are we all doomed to die?’”
(Numbers 17:12-13 NLT)



THE WAY THINGS REALLY ARE

- **Job**: “After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth... ‘Why did I not perish at birth, and die as I came from the womb?’” (Job 3:1, 11 NIV)
- **David** “You are the True God—my shelter, my protector, the one whom I lean on. Why have You turned away from me? *Rejected me?* Why must I go around, overwrought, mourning, suffering under the weight of my enemies?” (Psalm 43:2 VOICE)



THE WAY THINGS REALLY ARE

- **Elijah**: “Then Elijah walked for a whole day into the desert. He sat down under a bush and asked to die. ‘I have had enough, Lord,’ he prayed. ‘Let me die. I am no better than my ancestors.’” (1 Kings 19:4 NCV)
- **Jonah** “At this point, LORD, you may as well take my life from me, because it would be better for me to die than to live.” (Jonah 4:3 CEB)





WHAT IS OUR MOTIVATOR?

“Uncle Owen, this
R2 unit has a bad
motivator!”



HOPE IS OUR MOTIVATOR

- Hope helps us believe that what God has said is the most real thing
- When hope is waning or absent, we're like that R2 unit—our motivator is broken
- Biblical hope isn't wishing. Biblical hope is an authentic anticipation of good
- Some of us have protected our comfort zone with unbelief



HOPING AGAINST ALL HOPE

- Our spiritual father, Abraham, models the life of extreme hope that we would aspire to (Romans 4:17-21 NIV & MSG)
- What happens in a time of drought is that as hope declines, dreams contract
- But when hope takes up residence in us, then hope becomes a dream factory
- One way to increase hope: start making your dream list (Bill Johnson)



HOPE FUELS TRANSFORMATION

- **Romans 4:18a** NIV
“Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him...”
- Abraham became what was spoken, and that’s God’s heart for us; Father’s desire is that we would become what He says



HOW HOPE COMES UPON US

- Hope—not wishing, but an authentic anticipation of good—comes when our eyes shift from ourselves to our Father (Psalm 42)
- The inner turmoil that feeds hopelessness is stilled by reflecting on God’s mighty acts and by entering into worship
- We’re in a war with real enemy—no wonder the psalmist literally commands himself to hope in God



HOW HOPE COMES UPON US

- The only way to go from wishing things were different to authentically anticipating the good that is coming to us from a good, good Father is to place all our trust in him
- That's how hope comes upon us and that's when we start dreaming again



HOPE AND DREAMS

- Bill Johnson: when we dream we give God more real estate to occupy—so: what are your dreams?
- “Don’t dream what you think He wants you to dream. Dream what you dream.”
- God is not the God of just enough (cf. Harold Everley: “How much sky do we need?”)



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