

HOPE RISES US UP!

Hope Clears Our Vision

11-1-20

Optimism is psychological; optimism is personal trust in you, and optimism is often a denial of reality. Optimism is what you think you can do. It's positive thinking, not permanent trust.

Hope is theological; hope is personal trust in God. Hope is what you think God can do.

- Miracles are to **build** your **faith** which increases your _____.

Matthew 6:22-23 - "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"

- Hopelessness is seeing life without God. (You can)
- Overcoming hopelessness is seeing life with spiritual eyes. (God can)

1. A _____

Mark 8:13-21 - Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.

¹⁴ The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat.

¹⁵ "Be careful," Jesus warned them. "**Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees** and that of Herod." ¹⁶ They discussed this with one another and said, "It is because we have no bread."

¹⁷ Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: "Why are you talking about having no bread?"

Do you still not see or understand? Are your **hearts hardened?** ¹⁸ **Do you have eyes but fail to see,** and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember? ¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" "Twelve," they replied.

²⁰ "And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" They answered, "Seven." ²¹ He said to them, "**Do you still not understand?**"

Every miracle has a **message** in it.

- * Blindness is a metaphor for a closed mind.

- Optimism is what you think you can do.
- Hope is what you think God can do.

2. What keeps me from seeing life _____?

A. My prideful _____.

¹⁵... "Watch out for **the yeast** of the Pharisees."

B. My short term _____.

¹⁶ They discussed this with one another and said, "**It is because we have no bread.**"

C. My short-term _____.

¹⁸... "Remember..."

Ephesians 1:18 - "I pray that the **eyes of your heart may be enlightened** in order that **you may know THE HOPE** to which he has called you..."

Mark 8:22-23 - They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. ²³ He **took the blind man by the hand** and **led him outside the village.**

3. Hopelessness fades:

A. When someone _____ about you.

...people brought a blind man...

B. When you get _____ to Jesus.

... He took the blind man by the hand ...

C. When you _____ Jesus to lead you.

...led him outside the village.

Mark 8:23-26 - When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" ²⁴ He looked up and said, "**I see people; they look like trees walking around.**" ²⁵ **Once more** Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his **eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.** ²⁶ Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't go into the village."

4. When you get close and trust Jesus to _____:

A. Your spiritual vision _____ in stages.

B. You see _____ from God's perspective.

- Your focus gets _____.
...Then his eyes were opened...

- Your perspective gets _____.
...his sight was restored,...

- Your vision about life gets _____.
...he saw everything clearly.

5. A clarifying _____.

Mark 8:27-29 - Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" ²⁸ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹ "But what about you?" **he asked.** "**Who do you say I am?**" Peter answered, "**You are the Christ.**"

Truth to take home: How **I SEE JESUS** determines my hope and how clearly I see everything else.

Next step: Increase your time this week in Prayer and Bible reading.