

# "YET HOPE"

## Week 1: Surrender (Easter)

### KEY PASSAGES:

**Lamentations 3:18-21** "My strength has failed, And so has my hope from the Lord. I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail."

**Romans 8:38-39** Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Mark 16:8** "Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid."

**Luke 24:5** In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground...

**Luke 24:37** They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.

**1 Corinthians 15:55** "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O grave, is your sting?"

**Matthew 28:8** So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

**John 20:15-17** He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them..."

**1 Peter 1:3-4** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

**Matthew 28:19** "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."

**Romans 6:4** We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

**Acts 2:36** "Look, there is water! What is to stop me from being baptized?"

### QUESTIONS:

1. What Easter dinner food is your go-to? Which common Easter dinner food is *never* on your plate?
2. Many would say words like discouragement, frustration, anger, confusion and despair describe their feelings about the world around them. What words would you add to that list?
3. Read the Lamentations passage above, which comes after a long accounting of bitter, painful and difficult life experiences and emotions. What in that passage is notable or impactful to you?
4. Read the snippets of verses above from the gospels that describe how the disciples first reacted to Christ's resurrection. If you were in their shoes and had experienced what they had, how do you think you would've reacted?
5. In the John 20 passage above, Jesus tells Mary not to hold on to him, but to *go and tell*. What does that communicate to you?
6. It was suggested in Sunday's message that just as physical hunger is an indication that we were made for food, similarly, our human longing for meaning suggests that there IS, in fact, an answer to that longing... that there IS meaning. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
7. Read the 1 Peter passage above. What does that communicate to you?
8. How do you understand the step of baptism? Have you taken that step? If not, as the Ethiopian leader in Acts asks, what is stopping you?