

"YET HOPE"

Week 3

KEY PASSAGES:

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 6:19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

1 Samuel 16:13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

Isaiah 43:1 "I have called you by name; you are mine."

1 Peter 1:3-4,6-7 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... In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

1 Samuel 17:10-11 "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

1 Samuel 17:23-24,26 David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. When the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear... David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

1 Samuel 17:28 When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."

1 Sam 17:33-37 Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth." But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

1 Samuel 30:3-4,6 they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep... But David encouraged and strengthened himself in the Lord his God.

Psalms 42:5 Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

QUESTIONS:

1. What's something where you know 'the real thing' so well that you could spot / identify a counterfeit in a second?
2. Share a time this week where you were really hoping for something that you now admit was pretty insignificant.
3. 1 Samuel 16 above highlights a moment that began to set hope in motion for David. Can you think of a defining moment like that in your life?
4. Isaiah 43:1 above is God's words to the nation of Israel. How do those words feel when considered personally?
5. 1 Samuel 17 recounts David's account with Goliath, where we see the despair and hopelessness in the fighting men, yet hope and confidence from David because of God's strength. What is a 'goliath' in your life--past or present--and has your response been more like the men on the battle lines, or more like David?
6. "The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine." David's hope & confidence were clearly in God and not himself. How do you think we can know the difference between the two?
7. Who is your Jonathan? Who needs *you* to be more of a Jonathan in their life?
8. PERSONAL REFLECTION: In his darkest and most discouraging moments, we're told David "encouraged and strengthened himself in the Lord his God." How can you do that in practice?