

"YET HOPE"

Week 4

KEY PASSAGES:

Romans 8:24 Hope that is seen is no hope at all...

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

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.

Jeremiah 29:11 "I know the plans I have for you... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

1 Kings 18:46 The power of the Lord came on Elijah and, tucking his cloak into his belt, he ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel.

1 Kings 19:2 So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness.

Kings 19:4-6 He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again.

1 Kings 19:9-10 "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

1 Kings 19:11 "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."

1 Kings 19:12 ...after the fire came a gentle whisper.. a still small voice, a gentle breeze, a thin whisper, a subdued quiet... a sound of sheer silence. (several different translations)

Mt 6:25 Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?

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.

1 Kings 19:15 The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus."

QUESTIONS:

1. Share some instance (funny, surprising, meaningful, doesn't matter) where you thought things were one way, but it turned out things were not as they seemed.
2. Share a time this week where you were really hoping for something that you now admit was pretty insignificant.
3. We're four weeks into this series so far, so here's a general hope inventory. Answer these questions with complete honesty, however you understand them: a) What do I hope to *have*? b) What do I hope to *do*? c) What do I hope to *become*?
4. 12 scouts went out to the land they'd been promised by God. Two came back with expectant hope; the other ten came back with all the reasons they *shouldn't* have hope. When have you been one of the two? One of the ten?
5. We talked about three hope killers in Elijah's story. The first was fatigue. Talk about what thing(s) are currently making you weary/tired in this season and how you usually respond to weariness or exhaustion.
6. The second hope killer is isolation. If you're willing, talk about the time in life you felt the most alone.
7. The third hope killer is worry. What 2-3 things would you say are current sources of worry for you?
8. For anyone willing, share any personal experience you've had--either yourself or someone close to you--with emotional / mental health and struggles.
9. PERSONAL REFLECTION: In any of the above 'hope killer' scenarios, ask yourself "What would I DO if I was a person of tremendous Godly hope in this situation?" And then ask God for the strength as you begin to step towards that action.