



THE RESURRECTION HOPE

Luke 24:13-24 NIV

A SERMON BY
REV. DR. HOWARD-JOHN WESLEY

Sunday, November 3, 2019

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley

Sermon: The Resurrection of Hope

Scripture: Luke 24: 13-33



CURRICULUM GUIDE



Sermon Summary

Pastor Wesley opened this week's message by highlighting the difference between faith and hope. Faith is our capacity to trust that God can do it, but hope is our capacity to expect that God is going to do it. At some point we have experienced what it is like for hope to die, however, it is not God's will for us to live a hopeless existence. To understand how the Lord resurrects hope, you first need to understand how hope dies. In awareness of this, we are then able to resurrect and maintain our hope.

Hope Dies When:

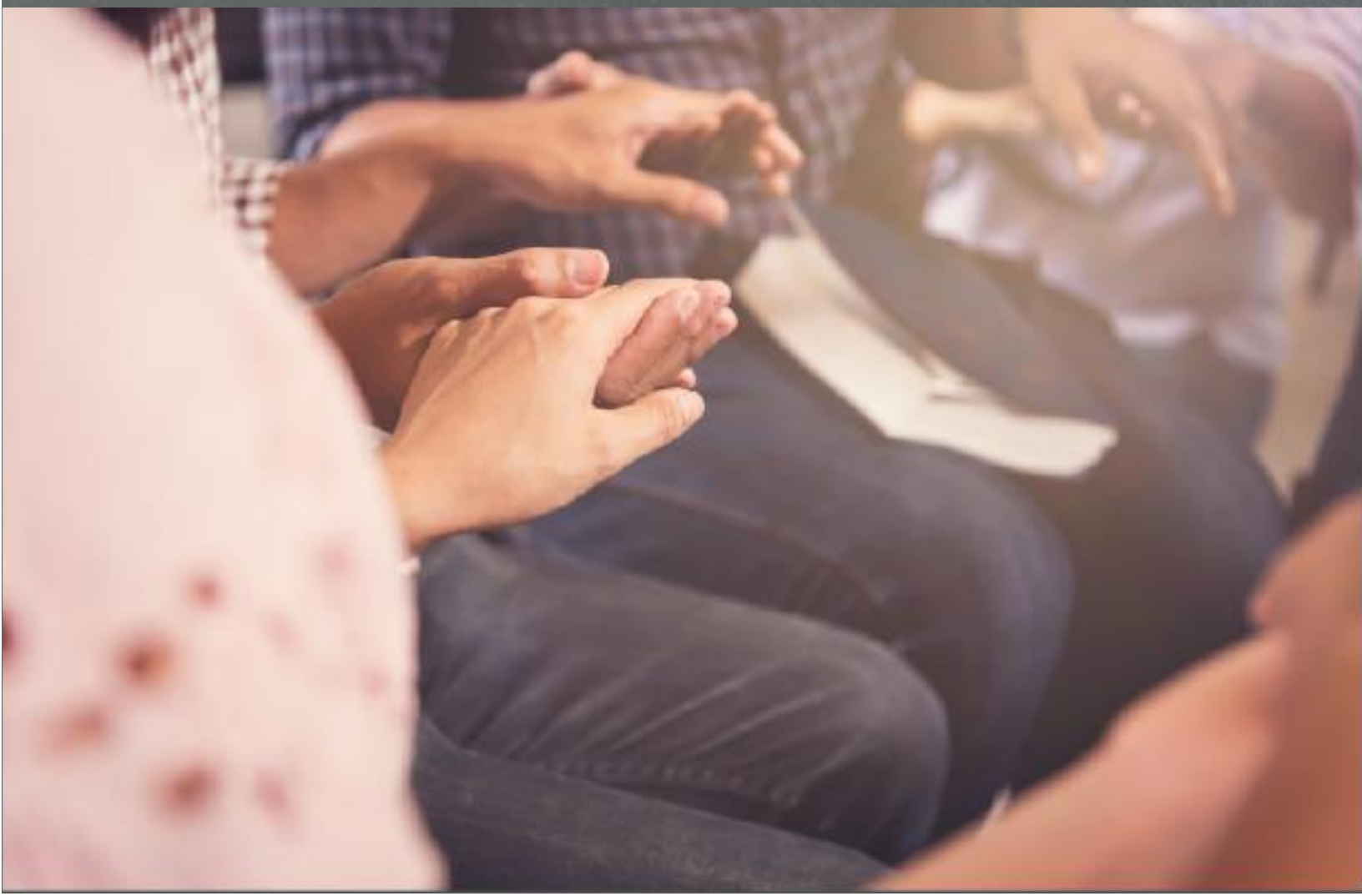
1. You Remove Yourself from the Presence of the Body of Christ
2. You Refuse to Wait on the Power of the Resurrection of Christ
3. You Fail to Remember the Promises and the Performances of the Miracles of Christ

Notes for Facilitators:

At this point in the season your Village has prayerfully established a bond and comfort level that makes it truly feel like a church family. As you continue to grow together we want you to be sure to document the successes you experience. We call these success stories Village Victories. If your Village has a powerful story of how God has moved be sure to share it with the Village team.

Getting To Know You Questions:

1. We learn that sometimes God can use the testimony of others to encourage our hope. Share a testimony of another that recently resurrected your hope.
2. Pastor Wesley said that the resurrection of Jesus is validation of every promise that God has given to us. What promise(s) of God have you seen in your life this week? If not a promise, what has God provided, answered, or done to comfort you to give you hope?



Into The Bible Questions:

1. Pastor demonstrated how uncomfortable we are with waiting. Isaiah 40:31 reminds us that “they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength...” What are you learning during the waiting period?
2. In Luke 24:31, the Bible says “then their eyes were opened and they recognized him...” What has helped you to recognize God in your life. What moments, scriptures, or experiences have shaped how you see God now?
3. In Luke 24:15-16, we find the “two of them” walking and talking with Jesus but verse 16 says “they were kept from recognizing him.” In your own interpretation, why do you think that they were “kept” from recognizing Jesus? How might this apply to your own walk with Jesus?

Life Application Questions:

1. Pastor Wesley clarified that faith and hope are different. On the one hand, Faith is believing God can do it, but on the other hand, Hope is expecting God to do it. In honest reflection, what now or in your past have you lost hope for? What caused you to lose your expectation? After each person shares, have another Villager respond with an expectation for how God can perform that.
2. While we can often think quickly about the times when others have diminished our hope, it can be helpful to think of the times when our words or actions have diminished hope in others. Can you think of any moments where something you said or did might have discouraged someone from expecting something from God?
3. Pastor Wesley illustrates that there are three ways that hope dies, how then can we counteract these and actively work to keep hope alive?
4. When we come to God with a request, we *know* He is there, we *know* who He is, and we *know* He’s got what we need.
 - a) Have you ever quit before a promise was fulfilled?
 - b) Can you put yourself in a position to go back and receive that promise?



"Can I Push It?"

Pastor Wesley talked about how we may remove ourselves from the body of Christ when our hope is lost (i.e., staying home, going to brunch, or a football game). In a season when your hope had died:

- a. How did you spend your time instead of attending church? What brought you back?
- b. In the future, what could encourage you to reconnect with church when you inevitably lose hope again?

Spirit Work:

Pastor Wesley discussed how conversations can diminish our hope. This week, think of places, people, or things that diminish your hope and create a plan to take a break or set boundaries from them. Then, think of how you might replace that with something that restores your hope. Maybe it's developing a playlist, talking to a Village member, watching sermons online, etc.



Activity:

Hope Train Line

Pastor Wesley said that all of us will walk the road to Emmaus where hope is behind us. He listed several verses that can encourage us: Psalm 42:5, Hebrews 6:19-20, Psalm 27:14, Romans 5:3-5.

- a) As a Village group, form a “Hope Train Line” (remix to a Soul Train line).
- b) Each Villager will walk (or dance) down the line and briefly share something that they are waiting on God for, or a testimony of what God has done in their life.
- c) If a Villager shares something they are waiting on, others will shout in response: “May Your Hope Never Die”
- d) If a Villager shares a testimony of what God has done, others will shout in response: “His Mercy Endures Forever”

Additional Questions for Married Couples Villages:

- 1. Problems can occur when our current reality doesn’t align with our expectations. Did you enter into marriage with the expectation of being able to “easily” work through every disagreement, yet you and your spouse constantly have differing opinions? Share how you work through these issues.
- 2. Have you had any faith vs hope moments in your marriage? How do you identify and overcome them?

Additional Question for Young Adult Villages:

1. Pastor Wesley warns that the worst thing you can do is stop coming to church when your hope has died because when you leave the body of Christ you avail yourself to the voices that can destroy your hope. How can you encourage a friend who no longer wants to attend church because of a difficult season?
2. As young believers, how do we get through the realities of life in a world bombarded by immediate gratification (i.e. social media, reality television, etc.), while also preserving our hope in God?

Additional Questions for Parents' Villages:

1. Pastor Wesley said that he was discouraged when the Nats were down 2-0 against the Astros in the 6th inning, so he turned his TV off. A friend had to remind him that the Nats have been "down before" they had the victory. This week, have your child(ren) discuss a time when they gave up hope too soon (i.e. when it's late in the game and their team is losing, test scores, preparing college applications, SAT Prep courses, music recitals, etc.)
 - a) What was the outcome?
 - b) If the outcome was disappointing, as a parent, what are you doing to help your child(ren) get through the season when they lose hope?
 - c) How can we prevent creating a hostile territory for our child(ren) when our hopes for their lives aren't seeming to come true?
2. There comes a moment in life when the only thing that can anchor our hope is by relying on the Word of God. How do you instill practices in your child(ren) that help them learn the Word of God?

Additional Questions for Women Villages:

1. Luke 24:31 points out that the disciples' eyes were opened and they knew Him after He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. Share something that the Lord did but you didn't recognize Him at first, yet later your eyes were open?
2. How do you preserve your hope in the midst of strife without prematurely rebuffing or responding superficially to someone else?