

Date: March 28, 2021

Pastor Steven Hardy

Series: Our Eternal Hope

Title: Short-Sighted Hope

Text: Luke 19

As humans, with a time-bound and material perspective, we tend to focus on visible, near at hand hopes. We hope for a sunny day tomorrow. We hope for healing from a physical ailment. We hope for the day we can again see one another smile, mask-free. First-century residents of Jerusalem were no different, and in light of the amazing things Jesus did among them it was no wonder they supposed the kingdom of God was to appear immediately (Luke 19:11). Jesus would have to address this short-sighted hope.

I. A short-sighted hope for the kingdom **NOW**, Luke 19:11, 28-40.

II. A true hope for the kingdom **FUTURE**, Luke 19:11-27, 18:31-34, 19:41-44.

III. A genuine hope for **NOW** in the kingdom **FUTURE**, 18:18-30; Luke 19:1-10.

What do you hope for? So often we are short-sighted, and the immediate and temporal keep our attention rather than the eternal. Sadly, that focus can leave us hopeless—missing out on the life the King came to offer by providing for our atonement. The cry “hosanna” is a plea for salvation—which is available now through faith in our Lord, King, and redeemer, Jesus Christ.



As a family, review the two “rich men” stories of Luke 18:18-27, and Luke 19:1-10. Discuss why it is difficult for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God (18:24). Compare the emotions of the two men, the one reluctant to distribute his wealth to the poor (18:23) and the other suddenly generous (19:6-8). What is most important to each of these men, and why does that result in one being sad and the other very joyful? As you conclude the discussion, underscore the point that the issue isn’t having wealth or not, but whether or not we willingly follow Jesus no matter what the cost.

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT, STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. The prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:9-13) makes it clear it is not wrong to look to God for our “daily bread” (or daily needs).

- But review the point Jesus makes to the “seeking crowd” in John 6:26-29. Do people still seek Jesus only for temporal help? Why is that a problem?
- Notice how Jesus tried to move the crowd beyond short-sighted hope for “daily bread” as John 6 continues (30-59). How did the crowd (even “disciples”) respond to this challenge from Jesus (John 6:60-66).
- What is important about Simon Peter’s answer to the challenge in John 6:67-69?

2. The gospels record three times Jesus told his disciples about his coming death and resurrection—Matthew 16:21-23 (Luke 9:21-22); Mt. 17:22-23 (Luke 9:44-45), and Mt. 20:17-19 (Luke 18:31-34).

- Observe the various responses and statements about the disciple’s understanding. What does this reveal about their expectation of Jesus and what he would do?
- If they did not understand (and he knew they didn’t), why did Jesus keep telling them?
- Based on Luke 24:44-47, what exactly was it they did not understand, and what did it take for them to “get it”? How is this still true today?
- How is this related to a disciples’ mission and its cost, Luke 24:48 and 9:23-26?

3. Does your hope center primarily on the immediate, or the eternal?

- What in our praying reveals our short-sighted hopes?
- How do we pray in a way that reflects an eternal hope?
- Jesus grieves over Jerusalem because of their failure to understand “the things that make for peace” (Luke 19:41-44). The days just after this reveal their disappointment when Jesus failed to meet their expectations for an immediate reign (their short-sighted hope). To what extent does disappointment when short-sighted hopes don’t materialize lead to a struggle in our faith? What is the remedy for this struggle?

NEXT WEEK: – Hope Restored, Luke 24:13-35

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