



CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

HOPE TO YOU COMMUNITY CHURCH

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THE MESSENGER

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Volume 17 Issue 2

February, 2017

HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS

Text: Matthew 9:18-26

Pastor Leo Genota

Hope to You Community Church

Can you recall ever being in a hopeless situation? Maybe we're in one right now.

Hopelessness happens when we find ourselves in a situation where there is no confident expectation for a positive outcome. It's being at the end of our rope. Lots of things can bring us to a point of hopelessness...the death of a spouse or child, the loss of a job, a chronic illness, a marriage on the brink of divorce, the potential of financial ruin, a prodigal son or daughter. Some of us may have been in that situation. We have lost all confidence in the future; we have no confidence that things are going to work out. We have tried everything; we have looked everywhere and things remain bleak.

In our text today we see two individuals who found themselves in what appears to be an extremely desperate situation but by trusting in the power of Jesus Christ they were able to have hope in their hopeless situation, and so can we.

What is hope? Hope is waiting in confident expectation for God's promises in Christ. In other words, hope is being confident that the power of God is going to get us through whatever we're facing. But that's where the problem lies for many of us. We're not confident in the power of Jesus Christ. In whatever situation we are facing, if we're not confident that God is going to act graciously and powerfully on our behalf, we don't have hope.

We may really want things to turn out ok, but it's not hope unless we believe confidently in the power of Jesus Christ to get us through, whatever it is we are facing. So how do we get hope? How are we to be confident towards the power of Jesus Christ during hopeless situations?

I. Hope is found in hopeless situations when we COME to Jesus.

Jesus desires for all people to come to him. He doesn't care where we are at in life. He doesn't care about our age or what we do for a living. He doesn't care if we have it all together or if our lives are falling to pieces. He just wants us to come. I don't know your specific circumstances, but the Bible clearly shows us that hope for whatever your facing can only be found in him.

In hopeless situations we are so quick to turn and try everything else first. We are so quick to turn our attention to what our favorite celebrities have to say, or to read the latest bestsellers because we are trying to find something to put some confidence in. The synagogue ruler and the woman with the issue of blood did the same thing before they came to Christ. In Mark and Luke's account of this story, he makes it clear that this woman went to every doctor she could find. She spent everything that she had, and only got worse and worse. Surely Jairus had called the doctors to see if there was anything that they could do for his daughter.

The Bible is not condemning them for going to a doctor. That's what they should do, because Jesus may use a doctor to heal. But don't put your hope in the method that God may use, but in the power of God itself. If we are putting our hope in the

solution and things don't work out, we are going to be disappointed. But when things don't work out, if our hope is in Christ we can keep going because our confidence isn't in the method, it's in the power of God. Jesus doesn't care who we are, or what we're facing, his power is sufficient to see us through and hope is only found in coming to him. He wants all people to come to him, but he wants them to come humbly & sincerely. To find hope in our hopeless situation, are we willing to humble ourselves at the feet of Jesus? Are we willing to express to him our confidence in his power as the only source to meet our needs? Whatever situations we are in, have, we told him, "Jesus, my hope is in you. Not in the method that you are going to use, but in your power. I know that it is sufficient for me"?

Jesus wants all of us to come to him humbly and sincerely when we see our great need for him. One writer wrote that, "Often some great tragedy drives a person to Christ. The person who feels no needs in his life has no hunger for God." So at some point God is going to bring us to recognize our need for him. It may be that you have lost your job; it may be that your child is a prodigal and nothing you say or do is getting through to them. It may be that you are facing a divorce or financial ruin. Do we see our great need for Jesus Christ? Do we see that the power of God is the only thing that can get us through this? Some of us may have received Christ as our Lord and Savior during times like these. It's always a crisis that brings us to Christ. It may or may not have been a physical crisis, but it is always a spiritual crisis that brings us to Christ.

2. Hope is found in hopeless situations when we BELIEVE in Jesus.

In Verse 18, Jairus comes to Jesus and says, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live," Notice that Jairus doesn't approach Christ and say, "My daughter has just died. Could you come and see if there is anything that you can do? ". He doesn't approach Christ with skepticism or unbelief. He has hope because he truly believes that the power of Jesus Christ is sufficient to help him at this great time of need. In verse 20, it says "that the woman came up behind Jesus and touched the fringe of his garment, for she said to herself, 'if I only touch his garment, I will be made well.' Look at the belief that she has in the power of Jesus Christ. "I only need to touch his garment, and I will be made well." There is no doubt in her mind that Jesus can heal her. We need to understand that this wasn't some mystical belief that somehow Jesus' clothing is what was healing her, because in verse 22, it says, "that Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.'" It wasn't touching the garment that healed her, it was the Power of Jesus Christ responding to the hope that she had because she believed.

Hope is found in believing. We have to believe that the power of Christ is sufficient for our situation. We have to believe that God can change the heart of your child. We have to believe that Christ can heal you. We have to believe that Christ can save your marriage. That he can provide a job, that he can meet our needs. Where is our belief? All of us say we believe, but does our heart and life reflect that belief? If you are consumed with self-pity, you don't believe Christ is enough. If we are constantly complaining about our situations we don't believe the power of Jesus Christ is going to get us through. Because if we truly believe, when the fear sets in and the worry comes it won't overwhelm us because our hope isn't in the how things are going to work out. Our hope is in who is going to work things out. Do you see the confidence they had in the power of Jesus Christ? This is what many of us are missing.

Some people come to Jesus believing while others come to Jesus with curiosity or skepticism. I wonder how many people that had diseases tried to touch Jesus' garment but weren't healed because they just wanted to see if "it would work." I can imagine people touching his garment as he walked by, saying, "I knew it, I told you it wouldn't work." Some people don't experience the power of God working in their lives because they don't believe it really will. Believing in the power of God means that we are letting go of our timetables. It means letting go of our plans and it means being confident that God has our best interest in mind, and that whatever God wants to accomplish will be a thousand times better than anything we could have ever come up with. Many times people just want to try Jesus out. They want to see if it's for real. They base the success of their Jesus experience on whether things turn out how and like they think they should. Jairus and this woman believed strongly in the power of Jesus Christ. Our belief should be so great as to know that only a touch from Christ would be enough to transform our lives. Do you believe?

Some people will never believe in Jesus, and we see that here in this passage as well. Do you want hope? Do you want confidence in God? You will find hope in hopeless situations when you truly believe in the power of Jesus Christ.

3. Lastly, Hope is found in hopeless situations when we REST in Jesus.

How do we rest in Jesus? I want to give you two ways to rest in Jesus:

First, In hopeless situations we can rest in God's timing

After Jairus approaches Jesus the only thing left for him to do is wait on Jesus. I can imagine how difficult that must have been. That when this woman kind of interrupts their traveling it would have been real easy for Jairus to say, "hey, we don't have time for that; we need to hurry. We don't have time to stop and talk. Make the crowds go away, they are slowing us down." This woman suffered with this blood disorder for 12 years of her life. She certainly could have been asking Jesus, "Why did you make me wait so long for healing? Why did I have to endure such trials?"

When in hopeless situations, do you understand that God puts his children in a position to grow their faith? God allows tragedy in our lives to grow our faith in him, and he prolongs our trials many times to draw us closer to him. Rest in Christ. Rest in his timing, and,

Second, in hopeless situations we can rest in his love

When the woman approaches Jesus and touches the fringe of his garment in Luke 8:45, Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!" But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me." But notice verse 48, Jesus says to her, "Daughter". This term of endearment, this recognition that says, you are not an outcast. You are not alone. You are not degraded and forsaken; you are a daughter to me. "Your faith has made you well; go in peace." The isolation is over. The pain is gone. The torment of others has ended. Listen, Jesus Christ is going to bring about peace in our life. It may not be the way that we think or when we think it should happen, but we are his sons. We are his daughters. He loves us and he cares about us. It may take 12 years. It may take 30 years, and it may even end in death.

But if your hope is found in Jesus Christ, you can rest in the power of God which is sufficient for every situation. And even in death we can rest in our confidence that Jesus is waiting to embrace us and give us peace for all of eternity. Are we resting in Christ? Are we resting in his timing and in his love? Maybe we aren't sure.

Ask yourself this question. When I am facing a hopeless situation, do I go to sleep concerned but confident that God is going to work out my situation? Do I wake up in the morning concerned but confident that God is in complete control of what's going to happen today, and I believe that he is going to work everything out by his plan, in his timing, for his glory. If your answer is no, then first I would say, have you come to Christ? If you haven't, what are you waiting for? Come to him today. If your answer is yes, I have accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior and he has forgiven me of my sins but I can't seem to trust him. Then I would say get closer to God. Hebrews 11:6, "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him." Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.

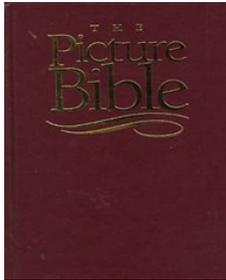
James says, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."

There are many hopeless people out there. You are God's light. You are God's hands. You are not as hopeless as many people all around the world that are living in poverty. You can have hope. You can give hope. Romans 15:13 says, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."



The B-I-B-L-E.

Barbara Barnes
Chair, Church of the Redeemer



When my sons Michael and David were small, well before I was much interested in spiritual things, my dear sister Mary and her husband Dan gave each of them *The Picture Bible*. This is an appealing format for children – bible stories with cartoon-style illustrations, speech balloons, etc. When we began coming to Redeemer, Michael saw that Bibles in Sunday school were called “The Holy Bible.” He asked me what “holy” meant and I did my best to explain (“special from God.”) He seemed somewhat skeptical. When he discovered that “Holy Bibles” had more stories and a lot more words than *The Picture Bible*, he found his own answer: “Holy Bible” meant “Whole Bible.”

I remember this now, at the beginning of the year, as we are encouraged to form or strengthen a habit of daily Bible reading. I don’t make New Year’s resolutions any more but at the first of every year, I do think about undertaking some kind of plan for Bible reading, hopefully getting through the “whole” Bible in the year.

My first plan was to start at the beginning and read straight through. There are 1189 chapters in our Bible, so “doing the math” ($1189/365$ is about 3.25) shows that four chapters a day would take you through. That doesn’t sound too hard, but in practice I felt pretty mired down at the beginning – I’ve since heard it said that this plan often comes off the rails around Leviticus. Now personally I like Leviticus (27 chapters) but I benefit most from its big picture. If I were to read Leviticus for a week, I’d rather read the whole book seven times than read four chapters a day. (This makes me want to go back and read Leviticus. Next time you see me, ask me if I have.)

My most successful trek through the whole Bible in a year was using the “One Year Bible.” This is a book in which the Bible is divided into readings for every day. Each day’s readings include Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs. I was able to stick with that at least twice. (Not to say I read every day, but I never got so far behind that I didn’t catch up quickly.)

This year, I’m trying a plan from biblereading.com. This is a 52-week plan so you can start it anytime. It gives a reading for each day of the week – Sunday from New Testament letters, Mondays Old Testament (OT) Law, Tuesdays OT history, Wednesday Psalms, Thursdays Poetry (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs), Fridays Prophecy, and Saturdays the Gospels. I have found so far that each daily reading has been chosen to be a very satisfying reading. I like the variety of theme and type of writing over the week – even more variety than the One Year Bible offered.

You may already know that many churches follow a “lectionary” – a series of suggested readings for sermon themes, prayers, readings, etc. that take you through the major stories or themes of the Bible. If you’d like to see what a lectionary is like, the Covenant’s three-year Lectionary starts on page 960 of the Blue Covenant Hymnal. You can also find out more about the seasons of the church year and perhaps you’d like to use some of those readings for personal devotions.

But putting aside what plan you might choose – why even try to read the “whole” Holy Bible? From the Scripture itself

All Scripture is God-breathed
and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,
so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Or a child's version,
The B-I-B-L-E
It is God's Word for me.
I will obey God's Holy Word
The B-I-B-L-E.

As 10-year old Michael might have said, the Whole Bible is Holy – the Whole Holy Bible. Every story or commandment or line of poetry tells us something about the relationship God wants to have with us, and about how people respond – good and bad. This helps us understand and correct ourselves and find strength and forgiveness. There is a saying: The more you know about something the more you see when you observe. The more you know about what God has told us in the Bible, the more you will see his work in and around you. There are lovely and faithful Christians whose reading hasn't included ALL of Scripture – one lady I loved very much “never got beyond the Psalms.” But there is no doubt that you miss out on challenge and blessing when you don't visit all the corners of Scripture.

I suppose most of us have favorite texts – ones that have spoken specially to us now or in the past. For me Psalm 116, 1 Corinthians 15, Psalm 23, Psalm 139, Psalm 126, many others. I love it in Sunday School when someone shares a text that has become very special to them. (What are yours?) It's wonderful to discover a new favorite. I remember a boy in Sunday School – all boy and full of good-hearted mischief -- who found Psalm 119:103 “How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth” and grew quiet to look up with a sweet smile and say “That's so beautiful!” So unexpected, so genuine, and so wonderful! When you look in less familiar places, expect moments like that.

So – I add my little voice to our Pastors in encouraging you (and myself!) to read the Bible regularly. You may want to use one of the plans you can find on the internet or a One Year Bible. See if you have a friend who will go on this journey with you so you can share discoveries and encouragement. Don't be discouraged if you skip some days and feel like you are “getting behind.” God so wants you to hear his word that he will bless your efforts even if they seem irregular or inadequate to you. As in all things, in this His grace is sufficient for you!

In Christ,
Barbara Barnes

“THE TRUTH IS LIKE A LION.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEFEND IT.
LET IT LOOSE.
IT WILL DEFEND ITSELF.”

- ST. AUGUSTINE



The Valentine's Day Adventure

Victoria Ray

40 There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies;
but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the
splendor of the earthly bodies is another.

41 The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the
stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. 1 Corinthians 15

The Valentine's Day Adventure

Many of us inwardly yearn for happiness on special days. Deep in our hearts, there is a hidden hope that someone will take note of us on that day and offer us at least a remembrance. Single people might be the most vulnerable, But even in marriage, can a spouse be expected to deliver full and complete happiness in red wrapping paper? Is this a fair assignment? Let us set our inner expectations higher, beloved of God.

Ten Ways to Celebrate Valentine's Day

1. The skies are sending us message after message about God's exquisite splendor. Let us linger in our meditation of his power and transcendent beauty. For diamond lovers, find a radiant star to admire. Let it bring you delight and fill you with joy in the Creator. Yes, go outside and choose your very own Valentine gift, knowing that you have or can have an intimate friendship with the God who made all things.
 2. Let us bless the Lord and thank Him for the splendid plan he had in the beginning in uniting a man and a woman together in marriage. Let us thank him for the beautiful illustration of Christ and his beloved bride, the church. Let us give him our faults, failures, and flaws, laying them down at the foot of his holy cross. *"Your procession has come into view, O God, the procession of my God and King into the sanctuary."* Psalm 68:24
 3. Let us look around at the many married couples in our church community and lift them up to the Lord in prayer. Pray for any couples who are secretly struggling. Pray for our pastors and their wives. *"Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? 'It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save.' "* Isaiah 63:1
 4. Let us pray for the young people of our church. Pray for their protection and their purity in a world filled with pressures. Pray for their relationships and decisions. *"You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God."* Isaiah 62:3
 5. Let us pray for the single, divorced, and widowed among us. Pray for their protection and their purity, Pray for encouragement. *"The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' Whoever is thirsty, let him come, and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life."* Revelation 22:1
 6. If single, let us resolve to trust in the Lord. Rosaria Butterfield says that singleness is a holy form of sexuality. You are a precious treasure. *"I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."* Psalm 27:13,14.. Wait.
 7. If widowed, let us consider the kindness of the Lord's heart. How tender he is! Be kind to yourself. Be patient with yourself. *"You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book."* Psalm 56:8
 8. If married, let us cherish the thought of our spouse. Let us honor the Lord with our sincere thankfulness. Let us act in faith to celebrate God's original plan. *"He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God."* Psalm 50:23
 9. Young, old engaged, married, single, divorced, or widowed. *let us embrace purity. Let us look to the Lord for strength in this. Let us renounce secret sexual sins. "From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth."* Psalm 50:2
 10. Let us reach out to someone in need or in distress. Is there a person near who might not feel able to give back to you, like a lonely or elderly neighbor? Consider giving the gift of listening to their concerns or to stories from long ago. *"When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, 'Don't cry.' "* Luke 7:13
- Happy Valentine's Day ... Our Truest Love is Jesus Christ because of His Holy Cross... Rejoice!
- "Who is this that appears like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, majestic as the stars in procession?"* Song of Songs 6:10

Plans to Give You Hope

Emily Montfort

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

We tend to turn to this verse when things are not going well, when we are discouraged, when we are fearful, when we are at our wit's end. And that is indeed a good time to turn to this verse for encouragement. But I want to look at it with a different point of view. I suggest that the Lord is saying that He knows us very, very well. He knows our strengths; He knows our weaknesses; He knows just how He can best put to use the myriad ways He has gifted us.

Max Lucado, in [The Christmas Candle](#) says "You weren't an accident. You weren't mass produced. You aren't an assembly-line product. You were deliberately planned, specifically gifted, and lovingly positioned on the earth by the Master Craftsman."

My son Alex, when he was in high school, failed a required history course. He told me that the teacher had told him he was failing. He said he didn't think the teacher would really fail him because he was quite sure he had the highest test scores in the class. I told him that if the teacher said he was going to fail him, he would indeed fail him. Anyway, when Alex went in to take the final exam, the teacher asked why he bothered to come; no matter how well he did on the exam it wouldn't be enough to make up for all the work he'd failed to hand in. He used the time to write the teacher a note, telling him that he was sorry he'd let him down and that it wasn't his fault; he was a really good teacher. I went in to talk to the teacher. I told him Alex knew he had to take the course again, and that he wanted to have the same teacher. He asked me why – he had been unable to get through to Alex the first time. When I said that Alex thought he had the highest test scores in the class, the teacher replied "in the class, in the school, probably in the county. I don't know how he did it. As far as I know he never did any of the work." I asked if he went over the material in class and he said he had. "Well there you have it", I said. "Anything he reads, anything he hears, he retains."

I've often commented that my brain is like a large sieve – I'd fill it up, take the exam, and then everything drained back out. I maintain that with all the schooling I've had, I've probably forgotten more than most people learned to begin with.

Not so with Alex; everything he's learned seems to remain with him. God gifted him with amazing intellect, and God intends to use that as He uses him to help others. In return, knowing that he makes a difference in other people's lives encourages him and lifts him up--making him more willing, more ready, to reach out to others again and again.

God's gifts to me are mine; they're who I am. God's gifts to you are yours; they make up much of who you are. He may gift us differently, but He doesn't do it mindlessly. He knows what He's doing and why. In those times when we find ourselves hesitant to step out boldly in situations that are new, different, uncomfortable, we need to remind ourselves that God knows His plans for us, and that He has equipped us for them.

Oswald Chambers, in [My Utmost for His Highest](#), wrote, "And if we make our own inability a stumbling block or an excuse not to be obedient, it means that we are telling God that there is something which He has not yet taken into account."

Know that He has taken into account just what He has planned for you, and that He has equipped you far more than you can begin to imagine, enabling you to fulfill what He places before you. Trust Him and step up for Him. Claim the hope He has for you.

*"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."
Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time
1 Peter 5:5b-6*

Happy Birthday to:

Dale Fowkes 1st
Milagro Pineda 3rd
Carole Fowkes 10th
Sophie Swartz 18th
Beth MacMillan 22nd
John MacMillan 23rd



Happy Anniversary to:

Rick & Patty Swartz 14th
Ligaya & Brian McAbee 14th
Pastor James & Cynthia Choi 25th



Volunteers:

Usher: Any volunteers???

Scripture Readers:

Please sign up to read

February 5 Brent Heckart
 February 12 Julianne Garcia
 February 19 Jessica Heckart
 February 26 Victoria Ray



You seriously have no idea what people are dealing with in their personal life so just be nice, it's that simple.

Treat Providers for :

Treat Providers for February:

Hope to You
 And
Fowkes
Swartz family
Redeemer Fellowship & volunteers

Special Offerings - 2016

Last Sunday Offerings:

January: Bowie/Crofton Pregnancy Center	\$ 422
February: Kisoboka Uganda, Inc.	\$ 167
March: Covenant World Missions	\$ 695
April: Every Nation Ministries	\$ 415
May: Women Ministries	\$ 198
June : Mission in Kenya	\$ 251
July: Backpack Project	\$ 164
August: World Vision	\$ 73
September: Bindura Zimbabwe churches	\$ 347
October; S.O.M.E. (So Others May Eat)	\$ 77
November; World Relief	\$ 776
December; Supported Missionaries	\$ 953

Special Offerings

	\$
	\$
Other/Ongoing	
Samaritan's Purse	\$ 177
Ndoga Support	\$ 6,374
Bowie Food Pantry	\$ 117
Ndoga Medical	\$ 1,010
Benevolence Fund	\$ 735
Sanders	\$
Covenant Support Missionaries	\$

Heart-to-Heart

Lunch – Wednesday, February 8, 1 pm at App;ebee's, Bpwoe

Dinner — Wednesday, February 22, 5:30 pm at Rip's, Bowie

