

Set Free

Free To Hope (Week 5)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Jesus offers real hope in the darkest of circumstances.

Key Scriptures

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:12-13

Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross—one on his right and one on his left. Luke 23:32-33

One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!" But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:39-43

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

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. Romans 15:13

Hope in Christ's words is practical to our present situation.

Living out our Hope:

- Speak it.
- Write it.
- Walk it.

Start talking.

- How have you seen the media swing from "worse case", to "pie in the sky".
- Which do you tend to gravitate toward?

Start thinking.

- Read 1 John 5:12-13. What is the hope that is promised here?
- Read Luke 23:32-43. Why was the first criminal full of vitriol toward Jesus?
- Where was the focus of the first criminal?
- What had shifted within the second criminal as they hung out he cross?
- Read Luke 23:40-42 again. What was the criminal declaring to be true of himself and of Jesus?
- What was the real hope Jesus offered in response?

Start sharing.

- Give an example of hope from the world's perspective versus a biblical hope. What is the difference?
- What do you hope for in this present situation?
- How does the hope Jesus offers practically impact your circumstances?

Start doing.

- Speak out the hope you have through Jesus to two others this week.
- Write down three practical reasons for hope this week.
- Describe two practical ways you can live out hope this week.

Closing prayer.

Lord, we need you! We need your grace, your mercy, and your hope as we move forward through this overwhelming time. Jesus help us to anchor our emotions, our actions, and our very thoughts in the real hope you offer. Give us a confidence that you are with us and for us through he peaks and valleys ahead. Help us daily to shift our focus from ourselves, to your love, forgiveness, and grace. We trust in you and believe in the future you have prepared for us.