

“Hope that is not Wishful”

Mark 16:4-8

I. Hope is not meaningful, unless hope seems lost ...

A) A Hopeless World

B) The Disciples and Hope Lost

II. Hope is not believable, unless hope has some evidence ...

“Seemingly defeated on Friday. But Sunday changes the world!”

A) Evidence of the Empty Tomb

- 1) opponents never produced a body
Matthew 27:62-66
- 2) guards
Matthew 28:2-4, 11-15
- 3) eye witnesses
- 4) followers willing to die for a lie?

B) Evidence of Changed Lives

1 Corinthians 15:16-18

III. Hope is not realized, unless faith becomes sight ...

A) Thomas

John 20:25, 26-29

B) Us

1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 13:12

Application Questions:

- Do you feel “left out” by God? How does Thomas’s/Peter’s story encourage you that God will not forget you?
- How does the evidence of the empty tomb provide a firm foundation for other hopes you may have?
- What do you think of the statement, “If all seems lost and even your dimmest hopes of God seem like gray glowsticks in a forest at midnight ... you might be closer to God than you think!?”
- How have you been impacted by other Christians who have displayed faith and hope in difficult trials? How has God given you hope in a seemingly hopeless situation?
- Why does the resurrection of Jesus Christ give ultimate hope to every life crisis?