

Sermon Notes – May 9, 2021

Happy Mother's Day!

Author Eugene Peterson wrote this about happiness:

"The ancient world never expected to be happy and was sometimes surprised by little episodes of it. The modern world expects to be happy all the time and is full of resentment when it isn't."

Hmmm. Now what in the world does this have to do with parenting and family life?

Today's text: READ I Peter 1:13-21

In case you haven't noticed, we live in a season of fear. World news, community events, even people at the grocery store, seem to ooze fear. It is in the air we breathe; it is in the eyes of many around us – it seems to be contagious, and fear does not produce happiness.

This world has always been a fearful place. Parents have always had to fight against fear. This is not new!

God's people are called to live with hope, not fear – regardless of the danger, sorrow, and challenges of life. To a suffering church, Peter writes words of hope.

Christian Hope is NOT Reserved for Good (Safe) Times

I Peter 1:1-6; 2:11-12; 4:1-2, 7, 12-14, 17-19; 5:10

- ⇒ Christian hope is not living in _____.
- ⇒ Christian hope is not reserved for optimists or positive thinkers.
- ⇒ Christian hope is not focused on things here _____.
- ⇒ Christian hope is not at odds with caution and common sense.
- ⇒ Christian hope IS the result of believing the gospel of a _____ Savior, trusting God's presence in this life, and living with confidence in heaven to come.

Christian Hope is Worth Fighting For (13-21)

- ⇒ "Gird up/prepare your mind" – what you think about and how you think about life. The word picture is of a Roman soldier preparing for _____. (13)
- ⇒ "Be sober-minded" – focus on things that will matter 30 seconds after you die; as opposed to being intoxicated, have

nothing else controlling your mind than the living Spirit of God and the powerful Word of God. (13)

- ⇒ "Fix your hope!" People fix their hope on all kinds of things. This is a command; it is an _____; it is something you do. (13)
- ⇒ "Put off & Put on" is a gospel rhythm. Do not adopt the lifestyle -- or the fears – of the world around you! Pursue being like Jesus, and fear God more than you fear other things or people. Question: What do you fear _____? (14-17)
- ⇒ We have been purchased with the blood of Christ to be God's change-agents in this world, driven by His mission, consumed with passion for _____ to be displayed among the nations. The Great Commission does not say, "_____." (18-21)
- ⇒ Part of our gospel heritage is the privilege of living with hope. (21)

Remembering the Main Point

On this Mother's Day 2021, hear me say this: Parenting has always been attended by fears. Always. In every generation, Christian parents must push back against fear and hold on to the hope that is ours because of our living Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Responding to God's Word

- ⇒ In a fearful world, how can I infuse hope into my life and my family?
- ⇒ Hope is strengthened by a regular infusion of God's truth. Are you drinking deeply of God's Word, are you encouraged by God's people, and are you selectively ignoring things that will ruin your faith?
- ⇒ Are you a "faith-builder" and "hope-giver" for other people – or are you a life-sucker and a hope-less "wet blanket," happily stealing joy from others?
- ⇒ In this fear-filled world, are you fighting for hope and fighting for joy?

Community Group Notes

Getting Started

Time for vulnerability: Can you remember a time in your childhood (that's okay to talk about) when you were afraid? What did you do, and how did you cope with your fear?

Talking It Through

(NOTE: Please do not pick on each other regarding how other people exercise cautions; everyone does it differently, and our point is to encourage hope, not embarrass people about their fears. None of us has conquered all our fears, so please be nice!)

1. Review the sermon from Sunday: READ I Peter 1:13-21 and remember the main points from Sunday. In summary form, what was this week's sermon about?
2. The focus this week is living with hope! How does Christian faith provide strong hope for this life and for the life to come? Spend time with both of those emphases.
3. Verses 14-19 has the familiar Bible pattern of "Put off" and "Put on" as in Colossians 3:5-17 (take time to read this text). How are both parts of this pattern important, and how does this rhythm build hope in us?
4. How is the fear of God different from the other fears in this world? How is fearing God a good and helpful thing, rather than discouraging and depressing?

5. Sometimes people associate appropriate caution with fear. How can we practice caution – and NOT be overcome with inappropriate fear? Give some examples of appropriate cautions we exercise, while still practicing full confidence in God (i.e. do you wear a seatbelt?).

Thinking Deeper & Taking It Home

What Christian practices have you found most helpful in building hope and joy into your life?

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How do verses 18-19 fill us with confident hope in God's gracious care for us?

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Time to PRAY

(Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs. Here's a place to list specific prayer needs:

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Next Sunday: May 16, 2021

"How Is the Hope Christ Offers 'Better'?"

(Hebrews 7:11-22) Pastor Matt Richey

Answer Key: • denial • improving • resurrected • battle • action • the most • His glory • Stay Safe