

# RENEWED HOPE

## SERMON NOTES

Perhaps you have had moments over the last few years when you have felt hopeless. Wondering when our world will make sense. Frustrated by the lack of opportunities for connecting with people. Some of you have been longing for something different.

Living with the new normal of greeting people at a distance. Hearing the horror stories of airports! Talk of recession and rising interest rates. More people accessing food banks than ever before.

All that without even turning our attention to other places in our world where over 300 million people have slipped into extreme poverty. People in places like Kenya who are living on the edge of being able to cope.

So we wonder where is the hope in the middle of the chaos of our planet? Real hope is what we long for! Not the superficial way that we use the word, but confident expectation because of what God has done. For without hope, fear creeps in and fear easily paralyzes.

In Matthew 19:16-30, a rich young ruler comes to Jesus with an honest question: "What good thing must I do to inherit eternal life?" Perhaps he was fearful and looking for deep inner peace. Perhaps he was searching for hope that would quench his restlessness.

In response to his questions Jesus gives him the answer that he fears the most! Give up the security of your wealth.

The Bible tells us that when he heard Jesus's answer he went away sad. This was the very thing he could not do because he was so locked into his earthly treasures.

Sometimes the things we love the most are the very things that prevent us from moving forward in life!

So Jesus turns to the disciples and unpacks what this hope looks like and when it will be a

reality. Not only for rich young rulers, or for fishermen who left their boats, but for each and everyone of us. For everyone who embraces the words of Jesus, this is the hope that you can cling to.

He describes it in a strange way that can easily be lost to us today. He uses the words “at the renewal of all things.” What was he saying? To those in the crowd when these words were spoken, this would have been something that they understood. Jesus did not have to launch into a long explanation of this idea.

Devoted Jews would have quickly made connections with OT passages stored in their minds.

This word renewal is a keyword. In the Greek language it is the word palingenesia. It is made up of two root words: “palin” meaning again, and “genesia” meaning beginning. We think of Genesis, “in the beginning” and the Garden of Eden, that perfect place. So we have this idea of Genesis again.

When Jesus sits on the throne there will be the renewal of all things. Jesus is saying that the philosophers got it wrong. This is not a reset of a broken world, like we reset a glitchy computer. That is NOT what this is! This is the renewal and rebirth of God’s world. One time. That is our great hope that we can be sure of! For rich and poor. For those living in comfort and those living in poverty. For those living in despair today there is great and real hope!

I want to introduce you today to a lady named Francisca who is living in rural Kenya. Her life was without hope and this short video tells her story.

## (VIDEO)

At the ongoing center of her story is the church. Sharing the message of palingenesia and hope. God is in control. Followers of Jesus have eternity planted in their hearts.

I want to invite you today to support the work of Tearfund and impact lives like Francisca!

Your gift today will provide mothers like Francisca training in new farming methods so that they can grow more food and provide for their children. It will offer enrollment in savings groups to provide a path to long-term abundance. Most of all, alongside the local church, your gift will provide families living in poverty real, lasting, hope.

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PO Box 3220 Stn Industrial Park, Markham ON, L3R 6G5 Canada

☎ (905) 415-8181 ✉ [connect@tearfund.ca](mailto:connect@tearfund.ca) 🌐 📷 📺 /tearfundcanada

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