

# RENEWED HOPE

## SERMON NOTES

### Introduction

- How are you feeling after the events of the last few years?
- Living in the new normal
- Maybe share a personal example of feeling hopeless

The reality of other places in our world where over 300 million people have slipped back into extreme poverty. Where price increases have taken away the ability for many to be able to afford basic necessities like flour and cooking oil. Inflation is running rampant. Changing weather patterns have decimated many farmers and what little livestock they had have died from lack of feed.

### Key Question: **Where is the hope when all around seems hopeless?**

At Tearfund Canada we hear from our partners serving in places like in rural Kenya:

- It's normal to be hungry
- Unpredictable rains cause constant worry about water
- Crop failures are common
- There is a belief that the government will help, but they never come
- Disunity cuts across multiple levels of people's lives
- Where is the hope for the average person who is trying to survive?

Where is the hope for those facing multiple challenges in places like Kenya? Where is the hope in the middle of your area of crisis and uncertainty?

## Life Without Hope

- What does life look like without hope?
- What are the fearful things happening in our world?
- Fear becomes the virus that eats away at people
- God's inoculation to fear is hope

## Definition of Hope

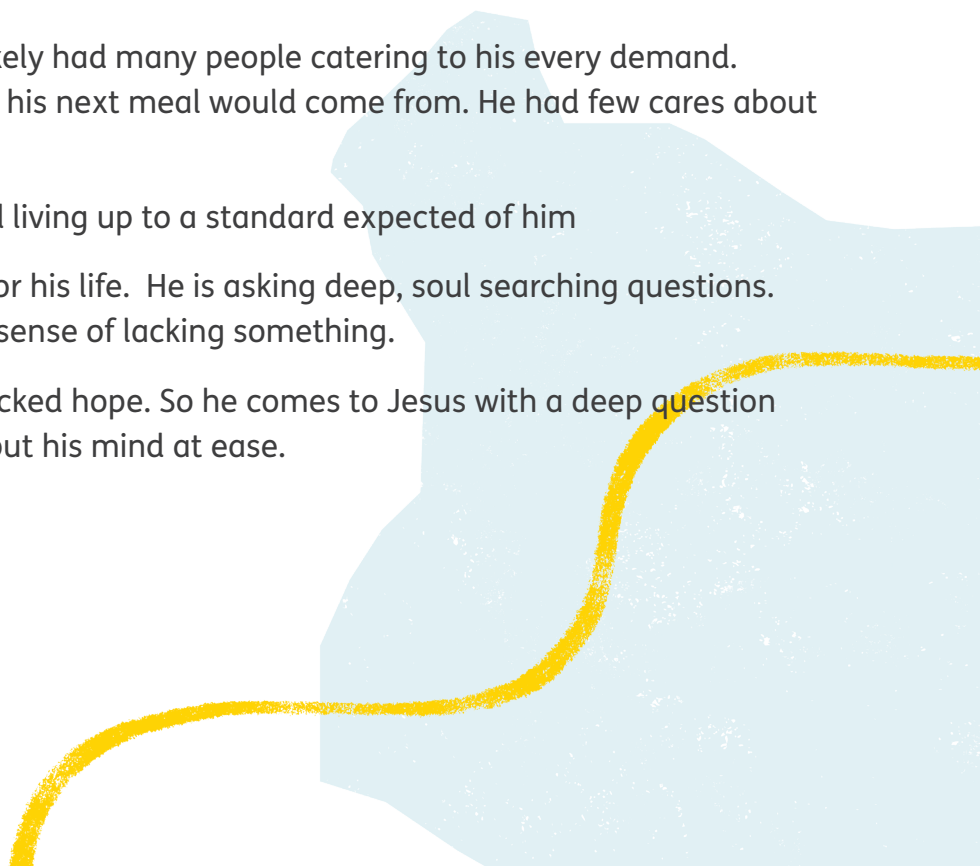
- How do we use the word hope?
- Share how Biblical hope is different from the dictionary definition
- A confident expectation

## Scripture Lesson:

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?"

- An individual with deep questions, perhaps searching for inner peace and eternal hope

### 1) *What do we know about this individual?*

- This man was educated and he knew the commandments. From an early age he had learned the laws and traditions
  - He was very wealthy. Most likely had many people catering to his every demand. He did not think about where his next meal would come from. He had few cares about physical things.
  - He was living a moral life and living up to a standard expected of him
  - He was seeking assurances for his life. He is asking deep, soul searching questions. He is searching because of a sense of lacking something.
  - We could even say that he lacked hope. So he comes to Jesus with a deep question desiring an answer that will put his mind at ease.
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## 2) How does Jesus Respond to him?

- Give up the security of your wealth
- Perhaps the most feared answer!
- The response left the man sad
- Sometimes the things we love the most are the very things that prevent us from moving forward in life!

## 3) Jesus talks about real hope

- In this culture people believed that the rich had real hope!
- Jesus unpacks what this hope looks like and when it will be a reality. V 28-30.
- Real hope is described in a strange way. He uses the words “at the renewal of all things.” Jesus uses the phrase in a casual way. To those in the crowd when these words were spoken, this would have been something that they understood.

Devoted Jews would have quickly made connections with OT passages stored in their minds. Maybe taken to the words of the prophet Isaiah:

- Isaiah 51:11
- Isaiah 65:17-19

This word renewal in the Greek language 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. The idea of Genesis again.

In the Greek way of thinking, this is something that happened cyclically, just making life a bit better. So it happened over and over. But where is the hope in that for those in despair?

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. How many times when you have a problem with technology do you simply unplug and restart? 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!

So we think of words like those in Revelation 21:3-5 and the description of the New Heaven and New Earth.

A story of a lady named Francisca who is living in rural Kenya. Her life was without hope.

## (VIDEO)

- Our Tearfund partner in Kenya is an organization called Fadhili Trust. Bringing hope through savings groups and sustainable agriculture as they work with churches pointing people to a sure and certain hope.
- Francisca's story is one that could be told across many parts of our world. In 2019 her husband died, leaving her with the burden of trying to provide for her family of 5 children. They were locked out of the house because she could not afford the rent. She faced the daily struggle of feeding the kids. Stress was overwhelming her. To put it simply she felt hopeless.
- In 2020 she connected with our Tearfund Partner in Kenya, Fadhili, and began to see new glimmers of hope. She began to learn life changing skills. New farming methods saw yields increased dramatically off her small plot of land. She saw immediate results. She was able to now feed her children and have money for school fees.
- Increased income was a significant change for her. We might even say that it was a renewal experience for her! She joined a village savings group that introduced new possibilities and a safe place to save money. Through the group she could now take out small loans for other income generating activities.

**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.**

Her story is not one that ends with hopelessness, but one that points towards renewed hope! Francisca had to give up what she knew. She had to give up the security of her way of farming. The security of the known for the unknown. Today she has hope for her future and for her kids' future. She can see possibilities where once there was only darkness. She has food, a means of providing for her family and new relationships at church.

In a small way her life has been renewed and she has ultimate hope in God's final renewal.

Join Tearfund with a gift to be a part of the work God is doing in the lives of people like Francesca. Bringing hope in the middle of despair. Fanning the flames of resiliency that lead to restoration and hope.

[tearfund.ca](https://tearfund.ca)

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