



CELEBRATING
Advent

WHAT IS THE OBJECT OF YOUR HOPE?

A BROKEN SPIRIT IS A SPIRIT WITHOUT HOPE

HOPE HAS 2 MEANINGS:

- A common meaning is wishful thinking
- Christian hope refers to ***an assurance concerning the future***

HOPE DEPENDS ON ITS OBJECT

- ***Hope can be false*** when we look to something or someone that cannot fulfill it.
- ***Hope can be uncertain*** when it stands on something or someone that may not be able or willing to fulfill it.
- ***Hope is sure*** when it rests in something or someone absolutely able and willing to fulfill it.
(1 Timothy 1:1)

**IF ANYONE HAD REASON TO NOT LOSE
HOPE IT WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST**

REGARDLESS OF OUR SPIRITUAL PEDIGREE

WE CAN SUCCUMB TO:

- ***Fear, worry or some like emotion*** that overrules logic. John had easily dozens of facts to counter his fear while imprisoned, but they were of little value until the object of his hope spoke words of living water to him.
- ***Circumstances that cloud our perspective.*** We live in the present and the future is unsure, will it change, if so for the better or worse? While in present pain, seeing/believing in a hopeful future is not as easy as a snap of the fingers or just trying harder with positive thinking or quoting a few happy verses from scripture.

MATTHEW 12:17-20

¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁸ "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen,
my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.

I will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

¹⁹ He will not quarrel or cry aloud,
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets;

²⁰ ***a bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not quench,***

“A BRUISED REED HE WILL NOT BREAK, AND
A SMOLDERING WICK HE WILL NOT
QUENCH.”

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LUKE 7:22-28: And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: ***the blind receives their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.***"

Can you imagine with me after hearing the words of Jesus from his disciples that the Holy Spirit reminded John of the words of Isaiah 61:

¹ The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Jesus really didn't even answer His question

Look at the last line Jesus says...

²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."



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