



2019 January Sermon Series: Hope for a Broken World

Message #2: Hope Has No Lid

Getting the Nod

Video: **New Year's Hope**

Hope is the catalyst of life. A definition of a catalyst is something that causes an acceleration of a reaction; something that causes change or creates a notable event. (Dictionary.com)

Illustration from Tali Sharot: Tali Sharot is *a neuroscientist that argues hope is so essential to our survival that it is hardwired into our brains*, arguing it can be the difference between living a healthier life versus one trapped by despair. Her findings have proven that...

- Studies show that **hopeful college kids get higher GPA's** and are more likely to graduate.
- **Hopeful athletes perform better on the field**, cope better with injuries, and have greater mental adjustment when situations change.
- In one **study of the elderly, those who said they felt hopeless were more than twice as likely to die** during the study follow-up period than those who were more hopeful.

Story of the Haiti Earthquake: On **January 12, 2010, a massive and devastating earth quake struck just outside Port-au-Prince, the capital city of Haiti.** Countless buildings in the city collapsed and **over a hundred thousand lives were lost.** The already shaky power grid was effectively destroyed, along with every other form of infrastructure. That night, with **aftershocks** rolling through the ground, almost all the residents of the city and the surrounding countryside stayed outside, torn with grief and fear. The residents of the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere had little access to the easy-everywhere life of technology even before the earthquake, and now, with their world in ruins, they had none. **Never-the-less they sang. Their hope was making them sing!!!**

But listen to this... In an article on NPR Radio summarized it this way: "**For the Western hemisphere's poorest country, the earthquake that hit Haiti in January [2010] was an especially cruel blow. Despite this, it's hard to find a Haitian who doesn't profess a belief in a loving God.**"

And they sang. When you don't have technology, you still have song. When you've lost everything, in fact, you still have song. All over the hills of Haiti those first terrible nights, ***under the starlit sky, the voices of the people of Haiti rose up in grief and lament, in prayer and hope.***

They had something we have almost lost—and they still have it, as anyone who has visited a Haitian church or family knows. We can have it in our homes, and in our churches too, if we choose not to let technology do the singing for us. (Adapted from Andy Crouch, *The Tech-Wise Family* (Baker Books, 2017), pages. 193-194)

Transition: Hope is the catalyst of life!!! When circumstances break us down... to the point of giving up... HOPE IS THE ANSWER!! So, don't put a lid on your hope. Hope that is stifled and wrapped in doubt will never make a positive impact on your life. Two examples in the Bible are found in 1 Samuel 17...

Connecting Us:

We remember the story of David and Goliath. When Goliath from Gath was taunting the army of Israel... the Jewish soldiers were frightened. They had been trained to fight... they had the weapons to fight... they had been successful in fighting... but now this intimidating beast of a man has stalled the Israeli Army into hiding. **Hope had been lost... and Saul, the best of them, their leader, had all but given up** and lacked any hope to defeat this challenge given to them.

But God has a habit of picking people who have been passed over to revive the hope in overcoming the giant things in life!!!

Transition: Saul had allowed Goliath to put a lid on his hope; but David's hope was alive!

What's God's Take on This?

There are seven lessons to be learned about those who put a lid on the power of hope and those who are fueled by the power of HOPE...

Hope Has No Lid:

1. The lid limits your victory (Vs. 25)

- NKJV | 1 Sa 17:25 **So the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely, he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel."**
- **It was death by comparison:** Goliath was a giant, trained warrior with the best of armor. And look at David. Just a kid straight from the sheep fields who had never been in battle before. This was a total mismatch with no chance to win.
- **Application:** Even in our lives we may face challenges which appear so overwhelming and we may feel that we are no match against such great odds. **But the victory of David over Goliath should inspire us and give us great confidence** in the battles that we face.
- **Remember this hope, the greater the battle... the more glorious will be the victory.**

2. The lid limits your ability (Vs. 23-24)

- NKJV | 1 Sa 17:23-24 **Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So, David heard them. 24 And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.**
- **It was the pressure of pessimism:** The entire Israeli army... including Saul was afraid. There wasn't one soldier in God's army that possessed hope... except David. He had a hopeful courage.
- **Application:** Even in our lives we should be bold and fearless when we face our Goliaths. None of those who were afraid of Goliath were able to defeat him. The only one who was able to defeat Goliath was the one who had no fear of him.
- **Remember this hope:** Therefore, we should be absolutely fearless when we face our challenges in order to get the victory.

3. The lid limits your certainty (Vs. 26)

- NKJV | 1 Sa 17:26 Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”
- **It was faith in the fight.** There was absolutely no doubt in David’s mind about the outcome of this battle. He was so confident that he asked to hear the reward again for the one who would defeat Goliath. He saw this fight as an opportunity to reach new levels of faith and blessings.
- **Application:** Even in our lives we should be strong in faith expecting the victory in our battles. We should not allow doubt and unbelief to rob us of our victory and destiny.
- **Remember this hope:** We should consider our challenges as blessings in disguise. We should look forward to the blessings that we would receive as a result of overcoming these challenges instead of losing hope and getting discouraged when we face trials in our life.

4. The lid limits your family (Vs. 28)

- NKJV | 1 Sa 17:28 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab’s anger was aroused against David, and he said, “Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.”
- **It was a family against family confrontation.** David was chided by his brother to go back home and leave the battle to the more qualified. This brother was a negative influence on David... and yet David pressed on with his hope and faith intact.
- **Application:** Even in our own lives we should not allow other people to rob our blessings through their unbelief, jealousy and negative words. Just as David faced Goliath without any encouragement from people, we should be willing to face our challenges alone with our faith in God and get the victory.
- **Remember this hope:** God sometimes restores a family through the family member who makes the greatest sacrifice.

5. The lid limits your memory (Vs. 37)

- NKJV | 1 Sa 17:37 37 Moreover David said, “The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you!”
- **It was proof of the past that proved to be the power for the present.** David’s past had prepared him for this moment. He knew the God was faithful in the past and was faithful in the present.
- **Application:** We should remember all the victories that the Lord has given us in the past and be strong in our faith that the Lord will do the same even in our current battle.
- **Remember this hope:** You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

6. The lid limits your reality (Vs. 45-46)

- NKJV | 1 Sa 17:45-47 Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

- **This wasn't about Goliath, it was about God.** DAVID DID NOT THINK THAT THIS WAS SIMPLY A HUMAN BATTLE BETWEEN HIM AND GOLIATH. HE KNEW THAT GOD WAS INVOLVED IN THIS BATTLE ON HIS SIDE AND WOULD DELIVER GOLIATH OVER TO HIM. GOLIATH CAME WITH WORLDLY WEAPONS, BUT DAVID HAD A SPIRITUAL WEAPON WHICH WAS THE NAME OF THE LORD.
- **Application:** Even in our lives we should have the knowledge that we are not facing our battles alone. The Lord is on our side and He fights our battles. We need not fear the worldly weapons of the enemy because we have spiritual weapons which are vastly superior which will bring victory to us.

7. The lid limits your destiny (Vs. 48-50)

- NKJV | 1 Sa 17:48-50 **So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. 49 Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David.**
- **This is all about faith with works.** David was less about talking and more about walking. It was action over discussion. It was hope over fear.
- **Application:** Even in our lives we should prove our faith by action. When Goliath fell, the entire Philistine army lost courage and fled in terror.
- **Remember this hope:** When the major stronghold is broken, all the other challenges which were connected to it, also falls away. David's victory mobilized the Israeli army. We can be a source of inspiration and a bondage breaker in the lives of others when we defeat the enemy and as a result many others would rise up in faith and accomplish great things for God.

Transition: Don't forget that HOPE is the catalyst of life!! And our hope is in God...

Drawing the Net

Sermon Illustration: Dorothy Sayers wrote a series of detective novels focused her fictional character **Lord Peter Wimsey**. Whimsey was an aristocrat detective from the 1930s who solved all kinds of crimes. She wrote a whole series of stories and novels about Lord Peter. Then about halfway through her Wimsey detective series, a woman suddenly shows up in the novels. Sayers new character is named **Harriet Vane**, a female mystery writer and one of the very first women to get through Oxford. Harriet and Peter fall in love. Until that point in the series, **Whimsey was becoming an unhappy, broken bachelor, until Harriet Vane shows up and her love starts to heal his broken soul.** It's interesting because Dorothy Sayers, like her fictional creation, was one of the first women to graduate from Oxford. Like Harriet Vane, Dorothy Sayers was a writer of mystery novels. Dorothy Sayers looked at her character, Lord Peter Wimsey, and saw that he needed someone to help him out. **So who did she put in there? She put herself into her own stories.** She looked into the world that she had created and she fell in love with the chief character, Peter Wimsey, and she wrote herself into that story so she could heal him. God has written Himself into our stories. That my friends is hope.