

BIG IDEA: Hope is here because Jesus is here.

KEY VERSE: He restores my soul. Psalm 23:3

SUMMARY

Through the chaos of life, our souls can become knotted. There is something about Easter that supernaturally draws us all to Jesus. We are hoping for hope. So, today, how's your soul? When we are worried, upset, anxious, or discontent in the world around us, our soul becomes knotted up and we can't fix it on our own (**Luke 10:41-42**). Only Jesus can unknot our souls (**Ecclesiastes 6:7**). He came to settle our soul in an unsettled world so we could live in peace.

KEY POINTS

1. God is good, even when the world is not. It is easy for us to project the darkness of our world onto God. But God is good so He can only do good (**Psalm 134:1**). When man fell in the garden God could have given up, but He didn't. He sent His perfect Son to save us. While the world may try and hurt, God is good to us today (**Genesis 50:20**). There is an invitation for us to change our perspective of God (**Romans 8:28**). Instead of focusing on our circumstances we can focus on how good God is (**Psalm 136:1**).

How can you start focusing on God's goodness in your life?

2. Jesus has forgiven you, regardless of what you've done. In Jesus, we are completely and fully forgiven (**John 3:16-17**). Jesus didn't come to condemn us, He came to save us and set us free. The sins we can't seem to forget are the sins God can't seem to remember (**Hebrews 8:12**). Jesus got what we deserved so we could receive what He deserved. Religion says, "if you obey you can be saved," but Grace says, "it is finished"—everything that has been required of us has been paid in full. Maybe we need to remember to forget and stop paying for what He already paid for.

Where in your life do you need to remember to forget?

3. You are loved for who you are, not for what you do. Being loved is what the human heart craves. When we were enemies of God, Jesus chose to lay down His life for us—He picked us when we were at our worst. That means He loves us for who we are, not what we can do. But we don't believe that so we perform, achieve, strive, and try to earn God's love. But if we have to do something to earn love then we know love goes away. In Jesus, we are fully known and fully loved with no fear of rejection. He shouts over our lives, "I love you!" We are loved before we do anything right and even after we do everything wrong. When we realize how loved we are, we are able to rest on God's shoulders (**Deuteronomy 33:12**).

How different would your life be if you believed that you are fully known and fully loved without fear of rejection?

4. Everything is possible, there is always hope. If we truly believe we are loved, then we can start to believe everything is possible (**1 John 4:19**). Greater is the God that is in us than the god who is in this world. If Jesus can conquer sin, death, and the grave then He can resurrect all things in our world. The empty tomb becomes the cosmic declaration that there is always Hope. If God is for us, then who can be against us? Death was the final authority and Jesus conquered death. It no longer has authority over our lives.

What does it mean to you to know that, in Jesus, everything is possible?

In closing. When we believe these truths we don't have to hope for Hope—we have Hope! Hope is the belief that God is good, Jesus has forgiven us, we are loved, and everything is possible regardless of what is happening in the world around us. Every knot in our soul can be directly tied back to one of these truths where we have believed a lie instead. Hope never dies, we just lose sight of it. Hope rises when we turn our soul to God and He restores it (**Psalm 23:3**).

Other Scriptures (Acts 4:12, John 16:33, John 10:10, 1 Timothy 1:1, Genesis 1:31, Psalm 116:7, Psalm 103:12, Romans 5:8, 1 John 3:16, Romans 8:31-32, Psalm 43:5, John 20:19-22, Romans 16:20, Matthew 11:28-30)