

Anchored Part 2

What Are You Holding Onto?

Heb 6:19 - *"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure..."*

An anchor is simple in its design, but very powerful in its function.

An anchor needs to be strong enough to hold no matter how much tension and pressure is being put on it by the boat.

A sure anchor is one which does not drag. It is not too light for the ship that rides by it. IT MUST BE BALANCED

An anchor which is steadfast or 'firm,' is one that will not break, but is strong in its own substance, made of good tough iron, so that there is no fear of the shank snapping, whatever strain may be put upon it.

We may then say, generally, that this object of the Christian hope is free from all the weaknesses and imperfections which cleave and cling to other objects.

Today we are going to look at the "weaknesses and imperfections" which cleave and cling to other objects."

Because the truth is that there is only one firm and secure anchor in which we can put our hope.

And that's Jesus.

Jesus comes to us to challenge every area of our lives where we have "misplaced hope"

Here is our reality - Life is filled with false hope and security.

We are met with a constant barrage of promises for health, wealth, and well-being from every source imaginable.

From an early age we begin to learn that if we can get strong enough, smart enough, and save enough money then everything will be alright.

And for a little while, that's all fine and dandy, until of course it's not.

And this affects all of us, so please don't feel singled out or picked on this morning.

All of us have, at one time or another, put our hope in things that couldn't deliver.

This is one lesson we've all had to learn the hard way.

So, what is that thing in your life that calls for your allegiance and loyalty?

Is it strength, smarts, or possibly saving accounts?

Is it a job title, position, or a relationship?

***The good news today is that no matter what that thing is, I can promise you Jesus is better, stronger, more firm and secure.**

And He's always ready for us to return to Him.

All of us are guilty of misplaced hope.

I love how God is patient with us, no matter how long the process takes.

2 Peter 3:8-9 - *But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance.*

The Lord's patience has nothing to do with slowness and everything to do with our salvation.

He is interested in all of us coming home, no matter how displaced and fractured our hope may be.

No matter how far from "home" we've wandered.

Just listen to this story from Luke 15, called The Prodigal Son. - **Luke 15:11-20**

Here we can clearly see how the younger son misplaces His hope.

He chases after earthly things, transient pleasures, and experiences.

But eventually all the money and energy are gone, and he is left with nothing.

For all the hope The Prodigal Son must have had in creating a new life apart from his family and away from his father it all ended when the hope he was holding onto slipped through his fingers.

It wasn't firm or secure.

Through this story, we get an amazing picture of divine love and acceptance.

As the son realizes what he's done, he decides to head home.

His father, who had apparently been waiting and watching, saw him a far way off and ran to meet him.

Embracing his wayward son, he welcomed him home.

The father didn't scold or shame his son.

He hugged him, kissed him, and eventually threw a massive dinner party to celebrate his return.

How many of us here today are tired of trying everything the world has to offer only to find it meaningless and hopeless?

How many of us simply need to head home, to our heavenly Father?

To the place where our hope, faith, and love have a firm and secure space to thrive.

BUT HOW?

Seek First the Kingdom - Matt 6:19-21

Jesus goes into a lengthy teaching about our motivations, anxiety, fear, and then of course, the hope we have in the kingdom.

Pay attention to what Jesus says about earthly treasures.

Earthly treasure is easily destroyed, or worse, stolen.

Illustration: something of value destroyed – demonstrate how fragile misplaced hope really is.....

Think about how much “hope” we put into things...

This kind of thing happens to all of us at some point or another.

Things get lost, damaged, or stolen all the time.

And if we're not careful, we can suffer greatly at their loss if our hope is wrapped up in them.

We can so easily be holding onto the wrong things... and this is why Jesus offers us so many correctives throughout Matthew chapter 6.

Matt 6:31-34

So many of us are worried about what to eat or what to wear - about property values and sporting events.

WORRY highlights the fact that our hope is in the wrong place.

As an example, when's the last time you were around a die-hard sports fan whose team just lost the big game?

It's awful isn't it?

Jesus offers us a divine solution to it all. *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”*

Seek the Kingdom.

Wrap your arms around the kingdom of God. Around Jesus, His teachings, and His people.

“Seek first the kingdom” is the divine corrective for misplaced and displaced hope.

There are so many “weaknesses and imperfections which cleave and cling to other objects.”

Things that are too easily destroyed, damaged, or stolen.

In fact, as Jesus mentions, every single day we live has more than enough worry of its own.

It's time to let go of all the false security and hold tight to Jesus.....

He is our hope, He is a firm and secure anchor for our souls.

As we wrap up today, I want to draw our attention to the biblical story of The Rich Young Ruler

Mark 10:17-23

In this story, we see another passionate young man who has a desire to follow Jesus.

He claims he's held tightly to the teachings of the law and observed the commandments since he was a child.

But Jesus, in His perfectly Jesus-y way, identifies another thing in the young man's life he's got an even tighter grip on. When

Jesus shows him, he needs to let go of all his wealth in order to follow Him, the young man becomes very sad, and he leaves.

You see, this story highlights something we all struggle with, and it's not necessarily money, although that could be it for you personally.

No, it's the fact that **we grow attached to the things we place our hope in.**

This young ruler clearly had a lot of attachment to his wealth.

So much so, that he was unable to put it down in order to follow Jesus.

Or said another way, he was unable to loosen his grip on money in order to tighten his grip on Christ.

And this specific picture leads us to turn our attention back onto our own lives.

What are you holding onto today?

What do you need to let go of so that you can grab hold of Jesus?

What time do you need to spend this week to get your priorities straight?

And finally, how can you tighten your grip on the anchor of your soul?

How many of us here today are tired of trying everything the world has to offer only to find it meaningless and hopeless?

It's time to bring your misplaced hope to this altar and take hold of the anchor of your soul!