

## WHEN YOUR VISION IS CLOUDY

### #HOPE- Part 2

4-12-15

#### Hope is not optimism.

Optimism is psychological, optimism is personal trust in you, and optimism is often a denial of reality. Optimism is what you think you can do. It's positive thinking, not permanent trust.

Hope is theological; hope is personal trust in God. Hope is what you think God can do.

**1 Peter 1:21** Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

- **MIRACLES ARE TO \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ WHICH INCREASES YOUR \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Matthew 6:22-23** *"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.<sup>23</sup> But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"*

- **Hopelessness is seeing life without God. (You can)**
- **Overcoming hopelessness is seeing life with spiritual eyes. (God can)**

### A MISUNDERSTANDING

**Mark 8:13-21** *Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.<sup>14</sup> The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat.*

<sup>15</sup> *"Be careful," Jesus warned them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod."<sup>16</sup> They discussed this with one another and said, "It is because we have no bread."*

<sup>17</sup> *Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: "Why are you talking about having no bread?"*

*Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened?<sup>18</sup> Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember?"<sup>19</sup> When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" "Twelve," they replied.*

<sup>20</sup> *"And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" They answered, "Seven."<sup>21</sup> He said to them, "Do you still not understand?"*

Every miracle has A \_\_\_\_\_ IN IT.

\_\_\_\_\_ is a metaphor FOR A CLOSED MIND.

*Optimism is what you think you can do.*

*Hope is what you think God can do.*

### WHAT KEEPS ME FROM SEEING LIFE CLEARLY?

1. \_\_\_\_\_.

15... "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees."

2. MY SHORT TERM \_\_\_\_\_.

16 They discussed this with one another and said, "It is because we have no bread."

3. MY SHORT TERM \_\_\_\_\_.

18... "Remember..."

Ephesians 1:18 "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know THE HOPE to which he has called you..."

Mark 8:22-23 They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. <sup>23</sup> He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village.

### HOPELESSNESS FADES:

1. WHEN SOMEONE \_\_\_\_\_ ABOUT YOU.

...people brought a blind man...

2. WHEN YOU GET \_\_\_\_\_ TO JESUS.

... He took the blind man by the hand ...

3. WHEN YOU \_\_\_\_\_ JESUS TO LEAD YOU.

...led him outside the village.

**Mark 8:23-26** *When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"<sup>24</sup> He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."<sup>25</sup> Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.<sup>26</sup> Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't go into the village."*

**WHEN YOU GET CLOSE AND TRUST JESUS TO LEAD YOU:**

1. Your spiritual vision \_\_\_\_\_ in stages.

2. You see life from God's perspective.

- **YOUR FOCUS GETS** \_\_\_\_\_.  
...*Then his eyes were opened...*
- **YOUR PERSPECTIVE GETS** \_\_\_\_\_.  
...*his sight was restored...*
- **YOUR VISION ABOUT LIFE GETS** \_\_\_\_\_.  
...*he saw everything clearly.*

**A CLARIFYING QUESTION**

**Mark 8:27-29** *Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"<sup>28</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."<sup>29</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ."*

**Truth to take home:** How \_\_\_\_\_ determines my hope and how clearly I see everything else.

**Next step:** Increase your time this week in Prayer and Bible reading.