

**#HOPE - Easter**  
**MIRACLES THAT INCREASE YOUR... HOPE**

**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**.

**Luke 8:2** ...Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out;...

**1. MARY MAGDALENE FELT HOPELESS BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT IT WAS TOO \_\_\_\_\_.**

**John 20:10-18** Then the disciples went back to their homes,<sup>11</sup> but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb<sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.<sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "**They have taken my Lord away, she said, and I don't know where they have put him.**"<sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.<sup>15</sup> "Woman," he said, "**why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?**" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "**Mary.**" She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).<sup>17</sup> Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "**I have seen the Lord!**" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

**IT'S NEVER TOO LATE FOR A \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Luke 18:27** Jesus replied, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

**2. THOMAS FELT HOPELESS BECAUSE OF \_\_\_\_\_  
AND \_\_\_\_\_.**

**John 20:19** On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the **doors locked for fear** of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were **overjoyed** when they saw the Lord. . . .<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, **I will not believe it.**"

**Doubts and fears will always lead you to a sense of hopelessness.**

**When you are hopeless, here is what happens in your life:**

1. When you experience delays or can't see your way clearly through life, you tend to run from your responsibilities.

**Next week:** "When Your Vision is Cloudy."

2. When you feel like you are losing or that your life is sinking, you give up too fast.

**April 19<sup>th</sup>:** "When You Feel Like You're Sinking."

3. When you experience difficulties or hardships, you tend to blame other people. You sit out of life and watch as everyone walks by.

**April 26<sup>th</sup>:** "When an Opportunity Walks By."

4. When you look at life through the lense of hopelessness, you tend to lose your perspective on life.

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** "When Life Leaves You Empty."

5. When you are filled with hopelessness, you make unhealthy decisions. This compounds your problems and drives you deeper into hopelessness.

**May 10<sup>th</sup>:** "When You Need More."

- **MIRACLES ARE TO BUILD YOUR FAITH WHICH INCREASES YOUR**
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**The presence of hope in your life creates:**

**You will have more satisfying relationships, be more productive, be less affected by stress, be more successful, feel more satisfied, be more compassionate, be willing to help people in need, be physically healthy. You will hold to higher moral and ethical standards, be more likely to assume leadership, and be more likely to see God as loving, caring, and forgiving.**

**John 20:26-28** A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "**Peace be with you!**" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, "**My Lord and my God!**"

**IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO START**\_\_\_\_\_.

***Next Steps:***

- 1. Commit to Christ.***
- 2. Commit to come back next week.***
- 3. Commit to a Community Group.***