

It's Not As It Seems

Part 3 of the *Hope for All* sermon series

Pastor Rich Warriner

December 18, 2016

Text: Luke 24:13-34 NIV

Hope is a confident, joy-filled anticipation of what God will do in the future based off who He is and what He's already done in the past.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

1 Peter 3:15

Some of the deepest valleys we have to get through in life are the ones where you were full of hope but then that thing you had hoped for doesn't happen.

When it comes to our hopeless situation, things are not as they seem.

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:31-32

I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

[What was] intended to harm me, but God intended it for good.

Genesis 50:20

Two stages of hope:

- The "being kept from seeing" stage (James 1:3-4)
- The "only believe" stage.

Next Steps

- Get together with your small group, your spouse, or your family and discuss these questions:
 - What are you hoping for this Christmas?
 - Read Luke 24:13-34. In verse 21, they had an honest moment where they expressed disappointment with God. Have you ever had a similar moment? Maybe you're living in one. If so, how would you finish the phrase, "we had hoped that he was the one who was..."?
 - What are some of the promises of God that you believe but are being kept from seeing right now?
 - Where might you be hoping for something to happen in the future that God is wanting you to experience today? (examples: peace, joy, love) What truth about God do you just need to believe to receive that thing today?