

TEMPTATION

Have you ever put your hope in the wrong thing? Where can we turn for hope in times of crisis? Whether we want to admit it right now or not, all of us are required to deal with the current crisis in one way or another. Maybe God is teaching all of us something significant that can have far-reaching implications.

Many Christian thinkers and theologians agree that there are three core lies the enemy tries to tempt Jesus with while in the desert:

1. "You are what you have" (the lie of false security)
2. "You are what you do." (the lie of false significance)
3. "You are what others think of you." (The lie of false belonging)

But this week, we will look at a lie that all three of these temptations fall under: the lie of false hope. Jesus was given an opportunity with each of these temptations to put His hope and His trust in something other than the Father.

Based on how people have reacted to the current crisis, what things are most people tempted to put their hope in?

Read Psalm 46:1-3

This Psalm was written when Jerusalem was surrounded by 185,000 Assyrian soldiers, and the city's defenses were about to fail. Why is that significant?

Do you feel like God is an "ever-present help in times of trouble"? Has there ever been a time in life where you found this hard to believe?

Read Psalm 46:10. What does this mean to you?

Ben shared with us that the word used for “still” in Psalm 46:10 is the Hebrew word “Rapha”, which means to cease, stop or relax. He also shared that the word for “know” is the Hebrew word “Yada”, which means to know, be certain or experience. Also, this Psalm was written when enemy forces were closing in. Does any of that change the way you have usually thought of this Scripture?

What does it mean to be still and know God in the midst of trial and hardship? What does that look like practically?

In the writings of Isaiah, we are presented with a beautiful invitation into this type of lifestyle. Read Isaiah 30:15 three times in a row. Each time, read it a little differently.

What sticks out to you?

Why do you feel like that particular part is sticking out to you?

What might God be inviting you into right now?

What does it look like to take a step of obedience in that invitation?

Pray this prayer: “Father, may I learn to look to you for hope. May I learn to trust in you alone. May rest and repentance be part of the salvation I find in you, Jesus. May quietness and trust become part of the strength I find in you, Holy Spirit. Help me to know your goodness, and to be still because I trust you. May that rest in my soul speak volumes to the world around me. May they see you through me. Amen.”