



Sermon Notes: Hope, Interrupted

1. The thieves of hope.

- a. The duration of suffering.
- b. The expense of suffering.
- c. The incurableness of suffering.
- d. The stigma of suffering.
- e. The finality of suffering.

2. The source of hope.

- Faith in Jesus.

3. The cost of hope.

- a. Jesus identified with you in your hopelessness.
- b. Jesus exchanged himself for your hopelessness.

4. The outcome of hope.

- a. You get what you need.
- b. Jesus gets what he deserves.



Application Questions: Hope, Interrupted

1. What are some prominent causes/sources of hopelessness and despair that you observe in our culture today?
2. What are people looking to as solutions to all this despair?
3. Do you relate more to the ruler of the synagogue (whose desperation arose suddenly and dramatically) or to the woman with the hemorrhage of blood (whose desperation was a “slow burn” over 12 years of her life)? How are the two types of desperation similar/different?
4. On a scale of 1 to 10 [with 1 meaning you feel completely hopeless and 10 meaning you feel completely hopeful about everything in your life], where would you rate yourself? What are the main reasons why you chose that number?
5. Of the 5 “thieves” of hope (duration, expense, incurableness, stigma, finality), which one has stolen the most from your life? What has it taken from you?
6. Can a person feel hopelessness and faith at the same time? Explain.
7. What do you think the ruler of the synagogue felt when Jesus delayed to come and heal his daughter? Ultimately, what do you think he may’ve learned by what he observed? Apply this to your life: What are some things God may be teaching you through the interruption of hope?
8. What do you think God wanted you to see in these stories to encourage you?
9. If “despair is commonly the prelude to grace,” as R. Kent Hughes writes, how does that encourage you to be on the lookout for others in your life who are experiencing hopelessness? What are some practical ways you could breathe hope into their lives?
10. What one thing does God want you to do in response to this message?