

# “Jesus Came for YOU: So be filled with Hope”

Wylie United Methodist Church  
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – December 2, 2012

## Matt 7:24-27

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

- THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHIMSICAL, FANCIFUL HOPE AND CHRISTIAN HOPE.

### Heb 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

- HOPE DEMONSTRATES TO THE WORLD THAT WE BELONG TO CHRIST.

- NON-BELIEVERS DON'T HAVE CHRISTIAN HOPE.

### Eph 2:12-13

12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

### 1 Thess 4:13

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

- THE OPPOSITE OF HOPE IS DESPAIR OR DISCOURAGEMENT.

- CHRISTIAN HOPE COMES FROM GOD...  
DISCOURAGEMENT COMES FROM SATAN

## 3 Keys to Overcoming Discouragement:

### 1. SET YOUR HEART AND MIND ON GOD

#### Col 3:1-3

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

#### Ps 16:8

I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

#### When we set our heart and mind on God:

- WE BEGIN TO SEE A BIG GOD AND A LITTLE DEVIL
- WE BECOME AN ENCOURAGER OF OTHER PEOPLE
- GOD CHANGES OUR ATTITUDE

#### 1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

- WE PRAISE HIM "Put on the garments of praise."

### 2. EXPECT TRIALS IN THIS LIFE

#### 1 Peter 1:3-8

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

#### Perspectives of people chronically discouraged:

- I expect victory without difficulties
- I expect difficulty without victory

### 3. TAKE OUR EYES OFF OURSELVES AND PLACE THEM ON CHRIST