

STUDY NOTES – April 7, 2019

Sermon Series: “Hope Rising”

Pastor Kris preaches from the *English Standard Version (ESV)*.
Sermons on line at camanochapel.org.

Matthew 27

1. Hope rises in the unlikeliest times. (Vs. 50-54)

Matthew 27:50–54 (ESV) — 50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. 51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, 53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. 54 When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

- Life lesson: Always anticipate God working in your life.

2. Hope rises when our heart is softened.

How to keep your heart soft toward God:

1. Realize that the “normal Christian life” includes a soft heart toward God. (Ezekiel 36:26)
 - *Ezekiel 36:26 (ESV) — 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*
2. Cultivate a deeper affection for God by praying the Psalms.
3. Slow your life down to contemplate God’s tender love for you.
4. Clean out the hidden, dark places of your heart.
5. Ask God to remove all bitterness toward other people.
6. Fight against cynicism by recalling God’s past faithfulness.
7. Surround yourself with tender hearted people.

3. Hope rises when stand in awe of God. (V. 54)

Matthew 27:53–54 (ESV) — 53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. 54 When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

- Life lesson: Think ***big thoughts of God!***

S.A.L.T. Group questions

- Have someone read Sunday's passage: Matthew 27:50-56
 - What truths stand out to you?
- 1. Share an unlikely time that God worked in your life.
 - Why is it that we often miss God working in our life and we only recognize it later?
 - How can we be more aware of God working in our life?
- 2. What are some other ways to keep our heart soft towards God?
 - What happens when our heart hardens towards God?
- 3. What does worship look like to you?
 - On a scale of 1 to 5, how active are you in worship during our church family gatherings?
 - What steps can you take to express your of God in church and in daily life?

S.A.L.T. groups ("Sharing And Learning Together") are Camano Chapel's adult small group ministry. To learn more, you can go online at camanochapel.org and click on the ministry tab.

Prayer for salvation

"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."

A more detailed copy of this sermon can be found at our Chapel web link:

www.thebibleexpedition.wordpress.com

