

HOPE FOR HOPELESS



Some years ago, a strikingly pretty 15-year-old walked into our office at Richmond Town, Bangalore. The teenager asked my secretary if she could speak with me. In the moments that followed I was trusted with her life story - one that was filled with hurt, disappointment, anger and questions. Having felt the force of rejection

at home, she had tried her first cigarette at the age of eight and had since moved to experiment with alcohol and drugs. Hers had been a painful journey of many regrets of physical and sexual abuse. She told me, sobbing, “Tell me, please, is there hope for someone like me?”

Someone once said, “Man can live for about forty days without food, for about three days without water, for about eight minutes without air, but only for one second without hope”

Our cities are places that cradle hope. By contrast they have also become places in which hope has faced the very sentence of death. On the 26th Nov. 2008, many of those who awoke in Mumbai never imagined that their hopes would be snuffed out- and that in such a ruthless manner.

On the other hand, world economies today are faced with what we would never have believed a few years ago - unsettling volumes of national debt and the bursting of the economic dream! For those of us have been force from prosperity to debt or from employment to a search for a new job, the horizon has not been always been bursting with promise!

Yet, every morning there are people who awake with their many hopes and dreams. Some have the ability to initiate steps to see their hopes become realities. They live by the adage, “if you don’t hear opportunity knocking, find another door.” Consider for example the young working couple whose hope is to buy a new vehicle - a market survey, some work with financial institutions, a test drive, and the deal is done! This multi-option market drives some

of us “hope hunters” crazy, doesn’t it? Today, it seems we have more cars to test-drive than we had shampoos some years ago. Talking about shampoos, I guess not many of us have either the hair enough or the courage enough to adventure with every brand out there ☺

On a much more sobering note, for many who dwell on our planet, a new morning may not bring the promise of anything new. Hope eludes them just as their dreams die with the dawn. It was Freddie Mercury, British musician and lead singer of the rock band Queen (1946 –1991) who once said, “You can have everything in the world and still be the loneliest man”. His words can well be a commentary on the condition of many a heart today- the homeless, the unwanted child, the social outcast, the

divorcee with a broken heart, the successful but unsatisfied tycoon, the popular movie icon with an ache in the heart, the abandoned senior citizen, the young woman imprisoned in prostitution, the terminally ill person and many others.

Take a good look around yourself. Do you hear such voices? Do you come across such stories? Human stories of people wishing for “hope”. The employee who lost a job, the wife with an alcoholic husband, the parent with a wayward child, the young bride threatened for dowry, the family anxiously waiting outside an intensive care unit etc. The list goes on. So do the stories.

It was Carl Sagan (1934- 1996) American astronomer, astrophysicist, cosmologist and author who said, “Who are we? We find that we live on an insignificant

planet of a humdrum star, lost in a galaxy tucked away in some forgotten corner of a universe in which there are far more galaxies than people.” Do you feel like that at times? Does your personal story look like a script without meaning? Or is it the state of the world that makes you feel despair? Does every suicide note scripted, every act of crime committed, every ‘act of nature’ experienced and every instance of hope dashed, cause you to wonder? Have you lately pondered that if our world was ever ordered by a Divine Designer, could it be that he just lost touch with us amid his busy cosmic endeavors? Or could it be, that he does really care but can only do this much and no more?

If we were created by a loving God whose desire was to always be in close fellowship

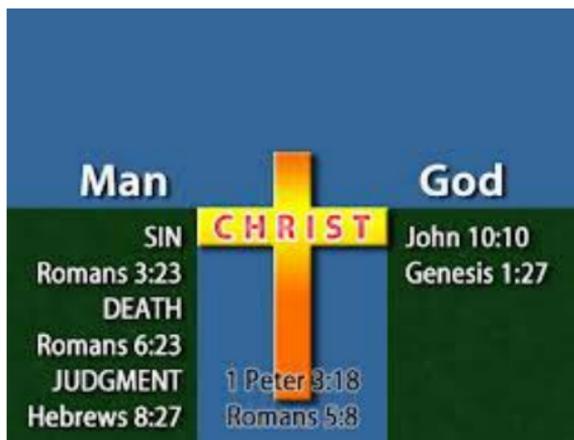


with us, was there something that came in the way? The answer is, “yes”. Sin did. When mankind sinned, we were separated from God who in his very being, nature and actions, is holy and without sin. The logical outworking of the condition was that the only true penalty for sin in a moral universe was death - the death of one untainted by sin. For this reason, God, left heaven and came down to earth in the form of Jesus Christ.

For thirty three years. He lived upon this earth and shared in all the joys, the sorrows, and the struggles of humanity. He was the embodiment of the highest love, the epitome of divine compassion and the expression of absolute truth in a seeking world. Having lived a perfect life, Jesus died upon a cross. He was crucified in what can be described as one of the worst forms of execution ever.

He died for us so that we could be forgiven and find hope. Like a fair judge who passes the due sentence in the trial of his very dear friend but goes on to serve the sentence in his stead, God addressed the problem of sin while making way for our acquittal. He died so that we might live. At the heart of all our hopelessness is the problem of our separation from God. That problem has been faithfully and completely addressed by the life, death and

resurrection of Jesus Christ.



Thank you for taking the time to read. We hope you will discover that God loves you and that in trusting Him, your life will never be the same again. Every day can be filled with hope and meaning like only God can give. And what better life can one have than this, that even the fear of death be gone? All this is possible because when we die, we will be He left His heaven to come down to our earth, so that one day we can be home with Him in heaven forever. What a fantastic hope that is!

Reflect upon so great a love and so sure a hope. “Is there a hope for someone like me?” The next time you find yourself asking that question, stop and think about the One who can give you that hope. And remember that He is just a prayer away.

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