

HOW DO WE SEE JESUS IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM? - HE IS OUR HOPE!

INTRO: TODAY WE'RE GOING TO EXAMINE A FEW THINGS TO INTRODUCE THE CONCEPT OF ADVENT TO THOSE WHO MAY NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH IT AND TO REMIND US ALL WHAT THIS SEASON IS REALLY ALL ABOUT! HERE'S A BRIEF VIDEO TO OFFER SOME EXPLANATION:

PLAY VIDEO! (SLIDE 2)

SLIDES 3 -7 :

Now that you have a good overview of Advent, let's break it down so we have a fuller understanding of what we're entering into in this season: **(Slides 3-7 = four themes of Advent)**

SLIDE 8:

All four of the **Advent Themes / Virtues / Qualities (HOPE / PEACE / JOY / LOVE)** are:

- 1. CHOICES: God has offered us these GIFTS that we must CHOOSE to RECEIVE**
We choose God's Gift of **HOPE** in Jesus or **DESPAIR** (SLIDE 9)
We choose God's Gift of **PEACE** thru Jesus or **DISORDER/ Turmoil** (10)
We choose God's Gift of **JOY** of Jesus or **DISTRESS / Sorrow** (11)
We choose God's Gift of **LOVE** from Jesus or **DREAD / Fear** (12)

2. RELATIONAL NOT SITUATIONAL: God's abiding presence is the means of conveyance of these gifts!!! He provides them thru His presence not our situation or circumstances! (13)

3. PARTICIPATORY: God has done His part, we must do ours! (14)

SLIDE 15: *Therefore as we look at THE BIBLICAL HOPE OF ADVENT we must remember:**

BIBLICAL HOPE is *more than optimism! More than wishful thinking!* It's *MORE THAN A FEELING!*

THE BIBLICAL VIEW OF ADVENT:

- 16 1. Biblical Hope is a CHOICE! (Definite Decision to receive is the beginning of our Hope)**
 - 17 2. Biblical Hope is a RELATIONSHIP! (Defined by a Personal Commitment to His Abiding Presence)**
 - 18 3. Biblical Hope is a LIFESTYLE! (Developed thru an On-going process)**
-
- 19** The Greek word for "HOPE" is *elpidzo - ἐλπίζω* (v. to hope) - *ἐλπίς* ELPIS (n) To trust in, wait for, look for, or desire something or someone - to expect something beneficial in the future.
- 20** Eager, confident & assured expectation coupled with contented, persistent & patient endurance.
- 21** Biblical hope depicts *an expectation of good things; expectation with desire; the desire of something good with the expectation of obtaining it.*
- 22** GODLY HOPE means that rather than assuming failure or a bad results, *we can always expect God's best.* **23** GODLY HOPE not only *expects the best, but it is filled with an anticipation to see the manifestation of the thing hoped for.*

**24 So what does BIBLICAL HOPE look like in the “real world”?
How is BIBLICAL HOPE experienced in our daily lives?
How is BIBLICAL HOPE connected to ADVENT and the CHRISTMAS STORY?**

**25 Well it boils down to two questions:
“WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?” and
“HOW ARE WE RELATING TO JESUS IN 2020?!”**

26 HOW DO WE VIEW JESUS IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM THAT IS 2020?

The year 2020 and the concept of Hope are at best, in great tension with one another. This year has been a record setting year on many levels. Among them, the number of tropical storms that have been named and developed into hurricanes. Many of us can relate “*storm stories*” of our own from 2020. We’ve seen the Corona virus severely impact our lives in the form of loss of freedoms, loss of physical contact, loss of financial security.

2020 has also seemed to bring with it many other unusual encounters that we won’t take time to enumerate, along with all of the other *so-called “normal” life events* such as death of loved ones.

From our current perspective, the “*storms of 2020*” have seemed at times overwhelming and for many a time of anxiety, stress and fear as we’ve witnessed the turmoil around us intensify and grow beyond any hope of our control. Ah, but there’s that word, **HOPE**, that we’re here to focus on today.

In the midst of the chaos, the despair, the fear, the sorrow, the turmoil, the storm that is 2020, where is the **ANCHOR OF OUR HOPE!**

I believe that reflecting upon the *many “disappointments, distractions and downturns”* of 2020 and the personal losses that we've experienced may provide us an opportunity to illustrate God's faithfulness in the midst of the storms of life and it is that very faithfulness that is a mainstay of our **HOPE** in Him, for **FAITH** is very much a key ingredient to **HOPE**. And that **FAITH** is based on our **RELATIONSHIP** with **HIM!**

Our view of or our relationship with JESUS is the Key to our HOPE in the midst of the storms of life!!! (End of SLIDE 26)

SLIDE 27 HOW DO YOU SEE JESUS IN THE STORM THAT IS 2020? - The Word GOSPEL = GOOD NEWS - so let’s start there! With the Good News of the Gospel that brings HOPE!

THE GOSPELS PROVIDE 4 VIEWS OF JESUS -

H:	HUMANITY =	FLESH (BABY HUMAN) - GOSPEL OF JOHN
O:	OMNISCIENCE =	MASTER (ULTIMATE MASTER) - GOSPEL OF LUKE
P:	POWER =	LORD (DIVINE LORD) - GOSPEL OF MATTHEW
E:	EDIFICATION =	TEACHER (OF TRUTH) - GOSPEL OF MARK

SLIDE 28: HUMANITY: JOHN'S GOSPEL BABY - INCARNATION: (HUMILITY)

1. JOHN'S GOSPEL: HUMANITY INCARNATION

WE MUST VIEW JESUS IN HIS: HUMANITY INCARNATION /BABY (OUR HUMILITY)

John's Gospel has a different viewpoint of Jesus from the beginning!

- 29:** **JOHN 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind. 5 And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it. . . .14 And **THE WORD BECAME FLESH**, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, **FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.**
- 30:** **HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF in order to OBEY THE FATHER!**
- 31:** **PHILIPPIANS 2:5** Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, **HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF** by becoming **OBEDIENT TO THE POINT OF DEATH: death on a cross.**
- 32:** **HIS HUMANITY is our EXAMPLE for HUMILITY!**
- 33:** **HEBREWS 4:15** For we do not have a High Priest who cannot *SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR WEAKNESSES*, but One who has been **TEMPTED IN ALL THINGS JUST AS WE ARE, YET WITHOUT SIN.** 16 Therefore let's approach the throne of **GRACE** with **CONFIDENCE**, so that we may receive **MERCY** and find **GRACE** for *HELP AT THE TIME OF OUR NEED*
- 34:** **HIS HUMANITY is our HOPE of OVERCOMING and RECEIVING MERCY & GRACE!**

SLIDE 35:

The **SYNOPTIC GOSPELS: 3 VIEWPOINTS OF THE LIFE & MINISTRY OF JESUS -*SYN -with + OPTIC - viewing**

IN THE STORY OF THE STORM: ALL 3 GOSPELS SHARE SOME DETAILS:

SO LET'S LOOK AT THE COMMON FACTORS OF THE GOSPEL STORM STORIES:

MATTHEW 8:23-27; MARK 4:35-41; LUKE 8:22-25

1. THE SUDDENNESS OF THE WINDSTORM:

(UNEXPECTEDLY FIERCE)(KEEP IN MIND THE SIMILARITIES TO 2020!)

MATTHEW: VIOLENT STORM (MEGAS SIESMOS)

LUKE: FIERCE GALE (LAILAPS) a squall of wind, a hurricane

MARK: VIOLENT SQUALL (MEGAS LAILAPS)

2. THE SWAMPING OF THE WAVES:

(OVERWHELMING)

MATTHEW 8:24 **καλύπτω (kalyptō)** to cover, to hide, conceal, throw a veil over

MARK 4:37 **γεμίζω (gemizō)** to fill completely full; filling up entirely; (like the wine jars)

LUKE 8:23 **συμπληρώω (symplēroō)** to fill up entirely, fill up, specifically, to swamp a boat

3. THE STILLNESS OF THE WATERS: MATTHEW 8:26; MARK. 4:39; LUKE 8:24

GREAT CALM: : μέγας (megas) γαλήνη (galēnē) tranquillity of the sea, a calm,`

SLIDE 36: ALL 3 SYNOPTIC GOSPELS ALSO TELL US ABOUT:

1. THE SLEEPING SAVIOR

2. THE PERCEPTION OF PERISHING

3. THE FAITH FOUND LACKING

THE DIFFERENCE IN THE 3 ACCOUNTS COME WHEN THEY RECORD HOW THEY CALLED ON JESUS IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM: THAT'S A KEY INGREDIENT TO OUR HOPE TODAY! How do we VIEW / RELATE TO JESUS, How do WE CALL ON HIM IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM!!!???

SLIDE 37: MATTHEW = LORD MARK = TEACHER LUKE = MASTER (SUMMARY: HOPE)

SLIDE 38: OMNISCIENCE OF THE MASTER

LUKE'S GOSPEL: "MASTER, MASTER, we are PERISHING!"

HIS OMNISCIENCE REQUIRES OUR OBEDIENCE = MASTER

SLIDE 39:

MASTER - LUKE 8:22-25 Now on one of those days Jesus and His disciples got into a boat, and He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they launched out. 23 But as they were sailing along He fell asleep; and a **FIERCE GALE** of wind descended on the lake, and they **BEGAN TO BE SWAMPED** and to be in danger. 24 They came to Jesus and woke Him up, saying, "**MASTER, MASTER, we are PERISHING!**" And He got up and **REBUKED** the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it **BECAME CALM**. 25 And He said to them, "Where is your **FAITH?**" They were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and **they OBEY Him?**"

SLIDE 40: OUR HOPE IS IN THE OMNISCIENCE OF THE MASTER

If we want to AVOID PERISHING, our only HOPE is to have FAITH IN HIS OMNISCIENCE & MAKE HIM THE MASTER BY OBEYING HIS WORD!

SLIDE 41: KEY CONCEPTS:

OMNISCIENCE: HE KNOWS ALL & KNOWS BEST!

MASTER: HE'S IN CHARGE / IN CONTROL - NOT US!

OBEDIENCE: THE WORD HERE MEANS TO HEAR, HEED, AND SUBMIT

HIS WORD: WHAT HE SAYS, WE MUST DO! (DELAYED OBEDIENCE - IMPLIES A KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING OF HIS WORD!)

SLIDE 42: POWER OF THE LORD

MATTHEW'S GOSPEL: "LORD, SAVE US! We are PERISHING!"

HIS POWER (OMNIPOTENCE) REQUIRES OUR DEPENDENCE

LORD (OMNIPOTENCE) VS. OUR POSITION

OUR EXPECTATION IS TO BE DELIVERED BY HIM SO WE DON'T PERISH!

WE MUST VIEW JESUS IN HIS: POWER - OMNIPOTENCE (OUR PERSEVERANCE) LORD

SLIDE 43:

MATTHEW 8:23-27 He got into a boat and his disciples followed him. 24 Suddenly a **VIOLENT STORM came up** on the sea, so that the boat **WAS BEING SWAMPED** by *WAVES*; but he was asleep. 25 They came and woke him, saying, "**LORD, SAVE US! We are PERISHING!**" 26 He said to them, "Why are you terrified, O you **LITTLE FAITH?**" Then he got up, **REBUKED *the winds and the sea***, and there **was GREAT CALM**. 27 The men were amazed and said, "What sort of man is this, whom even the winds and the sea **OBEY?**"

SLIDE 44: OUR HOPE IS IN THE POWER (OMNIPOTENCE) OF THE LORD!

If we want to avoid perishing, our only hope is to have faith in HIS POWER (Omnipotence) & make Him the LORD by SUBMITTING to HIS RULE & DEPENDING on HIS POWER!

SLIDE 45: KEY CONCEPTS:

OMNIPOTENCE:	He has the POWER to Do what's needed!
LORD	He has the AUTHORITY to DO what's needed!
DEPENDENCE	We need to ACKNOWLEDGE our Dependence on HIM!
SUBMISSION	We need to YIELD to HIS Direction / CONTROL!

**SLIDE 46: EDIFICATION by the TEACHER - PERCEPTION (EDIFICATION)
Expectation of Edification:**

SLIDE: 47:

MARK 4:35-41 On that day, as evening drew on, he said to them, "Let us cross to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him. 37 A VIOLENT SQUALL came up and WAVES were breaking over the boat, so that it was ALREADY FILLING UP. 38 Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, "TEACHER, do you not care that we are PERISHING?" 39 He woke up, REBUKED the WIND, and said to the sea, "QUIET! BE STILL!" The wind ceased and there was GREAT CALM. 40 Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have FAITH?" 41 They were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea OBEY?"

SLIDE 48:

Our HOPE is in the EDIFICATION of the TEACHER (BY HIS EXAMPLE)
If we want to avoid perishing, our only HOPE is to LEARN from HIM, NOT ONLY how NOT to perish, but How to
SLEEP in THE STORM,
SPEAK to the WAVES & Have
FAITH in HIS ABIDING PRESENCE!

SLIDE 49: KEY CONCEPTS

TEACHABLENESS = to avoid assuming we already know the answer
PERCEPTION of RELATIONSHIP = to see that our relationship with Him is worthy of trusting His Outcome, regardless!
PERSPECTIVE of PRACTICED FAITH = to develop that relationship thru a lifestyle of walking it out by FAITH that will develop a SURE HOPE that HE IS FAITHFUL!

SLIDE 50:

THE GIFT OF HOPE:

ROMANS 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we also have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and We CELEBRATE in HOPE of the glory of God. 3 And not only this, but we also CELEBRATE in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about PERSEVERANCE; 4 and PERSEVERANCE, proven character; and proven character, HOPE; 5 and HOPE does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.