

Jesus, Our Hope

Matthew 12:18-21; Isaiah 42:1-9

Hope

- ἐλπίζω = to wait for God's promises with joy and full confidence
 - Not a wish
 - A confident expectation

Looking Back

- The promise of God was to deliver a Savior for the people
 - Not just Israel
 - But for the Gentiles as well (v. 1d; 6e)
- This Savior would bring about God's justice
 - Making the wrongs right
 - But He would do so through gentleness for the hurt (v. 3)
- The hope that was to come meant (v. 7):
 - Sight for the blind
 - Freedom for the captives
 - Light for those in darkness

Looking to His birth

- Hope also meant that God would be with His people (v. 6b)
 - Immanuel (Isa 7:14): "God with us"
- For 400 years God had seemed silent
 - Then He sent Gabriel to speak to Mary
 - The promise was coming to pass

Right Now

- In Jesus' birth God is with us
- But now that He has returned to the Father, He is still with us through the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-18)

Looking Forward

- As we trust in Christ:
 - We experience His presence now through the Spirit
 - And we look forward to His return
- Our hope is both in what Christ did from the Manger to the Cross
- And in what He will do when He comes again (Tts 2:13)
- His Second Coming will also be with justice

- Mercy for the broken who call on His name
- Judgment for those who refuse His grace

So What?

- What do we place our hope in?
- God's presence with His people
 - He was with us through Christ's birth
 - He is with us through the Holy Spirit
 - He will be with us when He comes again

Meditation Verse: 1 Peter 3:15