



Sermon Outline:

Living with hope

Main point: Jesus gives us reason to live with hope

Intended response: We can live with hope and not despair

Key verse: Mark 1:1-8

Introduction:

- > The importance of hope for the future.
- > What hope is and is NOT – not wishful thinking or ‘being optimistic’.
- > Hope is looking forward with anticipation by looking back and seeing that God has acted and can be trusted.

Intro launch: How does God address our despair in the hard times?

A/ Hope is born in despair and difficult times.

- > Jewish people under Roman rule – the rule of Babylon – the rule of Egypt. Despair a common response – but Moses, Isaiah, John the Baptist encouraged hope based on their knowledge/experience of God in the past.
- > Today we face different social and personal challenges. Where do we look for hope when life is hard?

B/ God offers hope that he will act and do something special.

- > John the Baptist offers hope and invites the people to anticipate the one to come. Promise that God will come and act in their world.
- > We live today on the other side of God coming into our world. Based on his life, his death and resurrection we have hope for the future – an anchor for our souls – and not despair.

C/ Jesus is reason for us to live with hope even in the difficult times of life.

- > We remember that difficult times have been common to every period of history, yet God remains the same and will one day put all things right.
- > In difficult personal times, we choose to remember that Jesus has defeated death and nothing can separate us from the love of God. Jesus has promised to return and wipe every tear from our eyes – and he can be trusted.