



LIFEGROUPS

Sermon: Hope and Timing

Scripture: 1 Samuel 11:1-8

Date: Feb. 13 & 14, 2016

—[LET'S TALK]—

- Do you practice Lent, or have you in the past? What are some things you've sacrificed for Lent?

—[LET'S WARM UP]—

- What do you expect or assume God will do for you?
- How do you react when God allows things that seem senseless, or even wrong?
- How much has God done for you? What about those around you?
- When things go wrong, what are some ways you see the world react?

—[LET'S DIG | CHOOSE 1]—

- Read Psalm 77 and talk about God's goodness in hopeless circumstances.
 1. How does the author react to God's apparent silence?
 2. What does the author say and think about God? Have you ever thought similar things?
 3. To what extent does the author remember God? Why might that be significant?
 4. What happens when the author turns to remembering God?
- Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 and talk about trusting God's decisions.
 1. What is the wisdom of the world and what is the foolishness of God?
 2. Why is the wisdom of the world foolishness?
 3. How does this impact the way we understand God's ways?
 4. In what ways does this give us hope?

—[LET'S ACT]—

- Make a Time-Map of God's works. Start as far back in time as you wish, and then make a map of events (around the world, in your life, in other's lives etc.) when God did something. Specifically try to see ways that God has taken something bad and turned it for good (like Joseph rising to power in Egypt after being sold into slavery). Challenge yourself to find the longest period of time between a bad event and God's redemption of that event.

—[**SERMON REVIEW**]—

- Extra sermon scriptures: [Heb 11:1]
- We often try to use circumstances as our basis for validating our belief in God. However, this is problematic because when we experience hardship, it causes us to question God.
- King Saul cutting up the oxen and sending the pieces to the tribes of Israel is a call for justice, stemming back from an injustice done about 400 years earlier.
- God is not limited by time like we are, but we experience His actions within time. So, sometimes it takes literally hundreds of years for us to see God take action.
- When life gets difficult, we must take the long-view of God working in this world. Otherwise, we are liable to believe that God has failed or made the wrong choice.

—[**NOTES**]—
