

There Is Still Hope

Introduction:

- A. [Series: Restored]
- B. [Years ago an S-4 submarine was rammed by a ship off the coast of Massachusetts. It sank immediately. The entire crew was trapped in a prison house of death. Every effort was made to rescue the crew, but all ultimately failed. Near the end of the ordeal, a deep-sea diver, who was doing everything in his power to find a way for the crew's release, thought he heard a tapping on the steel wall of the sunken sub. He placed his helmet up against the side of the vessel and he realized it was Morse Code. He attached himself to the side and he spelled out in his mind the message being tapped from within. It was repeating the same question. The question was, from within: "Is...there...any...hope?"]
- C. When it comes to huge mistakes in our lives we can find hope – {Title}
- D. Ezra 10:1-2
- E. "Even when we have blown it big time, there is still hope."
- F. Recap:
 - a. The remnant of Israel had sinned against God...
 - b. They had intermarried with the peoples of the land...[A religious problem]
 - c. Ezra leads the people to mourning and repenting of this sin before God...
 - d. Shechaniah stands before the people and proclaims...(2b)
- G. We find ourselves in this same situation from time to time...
- H. We have all sinned...
- I. Yet there is still hope!
- J. 2 Questions about hope:
 - I. Why do I still have hope?
 - a. God still loves you.
 - i. "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." – Rom. 8:38-39 NLT
 - ii. God's love is beyond measure!
 - iii. ["**Could we with ink the ocean fill, And were the skies of parchment made, Were every stalk on earth a quill, And every man a scribe by trade; To write the love of God above Would drain the ocean dry; Nor could the scroll contain the whole, Though stretched from sky to sky.**" – The Love of God Hymn]
 - iv. Take hope, because no matter how bad you blown it, God still loves you!
 - b. {Why?} God still wants you.
 - i. "For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, But My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, And My covenant of peace will not be shaken," Says the LORD who has compassion on you." – Is. 54:10 NASB
 - ii. No matter what you have done – God wants to show you grace and mercy!
 - iii. ["**So why does God still love us, despite us? I do not have an answer to this question. But I do know that if God's mercy didn't exist, there would be no hope.**" – Francis Chan Crazy Love]
 - iv. But you can take hope, because God still wants you!
 - c. {Why?} God still will forgive you.
 - i. "Who is a God like you? You forgive sin and overlook the rebellion of your faithful people. You will not be angry forever, because you would rather show mercy. You will again have compassion on us. You will overcome our wrongdoing. You will throw all our sins into the deep sea." – Mic. 7:18-19 GW
 - ii. [Long ago, a poor woman from the slums of London was invited to go with a group of people for a holiday at the ocean. She had never seen the ocean before, and when she saw it, she burst into tears. Those around her thought it was strange that she should cry

when such a lovely holiday had been given her. “Why in the world are you crying?” they asked. Pointing to the ocean she answered, “This is the only thing I have ever seen that there was enough of.” God has oceans of mercy. There is enough of it – and God delights to show his mercy and compassion...forgiveness!]

- iii. You have not strayed deep enough, far enough, or away enough for God to not want to forgive you....
- iv. So take hope!
- v. [Talk Show]

“2nd Question...”

II. What do I do now? {When it comes to your sins...}

a. Own it – *Confession*

- i. *“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”* – 1 Jn. 1:8-9 NIV
- ii. Own up to your sin.

iii. [In a San Diego courtroom two men were on trial for robbery. A witness to the crime was being examined by the prosecuting attorney when he asked the following sequence of questions. “Were you at the scene when the robbery took place?” “Yes,” was the reply. “And did you observe the two robbers?” Again, the witness nodded, “Yes.” The attorney then turned up the heat of his intensity and boomed out his last question. “Are these two men present in court today? There was no need for the witness to answer, because the two defendants raised their hands. Although these two crooks might seem a little confused, they do represent a good spiritual truth. We start our journey toward God when we confess our sins and acknowledge our guilt.]

- iv. See your sin for what it is and confess it to God!

b. {Next} Leave it – *Repentance*

- i. *“Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. ⁹ Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.”* – Jam. 4:8-10 NLT
- ii. Don’t just admit that you’ve blown it, be broken over it and give it up!

iii. [Israel showed that they truly repented of their sins, by separating themselves from their pagan family members]

- iv. Put in action principles into your life that will prevent you from blowing it again.

c. {Next} Believe it – *Trust*

- i. *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”* – Heb. 11:6
- ii. Many times we have a hard time believing that God wants to and has forgiven us...
- iii. We don’t feel it...

iv. [During World War II an American plane was flying a mission in Africa. Under the cloak of darkness they flew toward their destination of Benghazi in North Africa. A strong tail wind pushed the plane much faster than expected. When the instruments revealed they have reached their destination, the crew members apparently kept flying in disbelief of the gauges. They felt the instruments must be wrong, so they pressed on looking for a beacon light that was already miles behind. Eventually, the plane ran out of fuel, and the entire crew died when they crashed into the desert. Feelings can be a dangerous guide.]

Conclusion

- A. Do you have hope?

- B. *“You lived in this world without God and without hope.....¹³ But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.”* – Eph. 2:12b-13 NLT