

TAKING IT HOME

Last Sunday Pastor John talked about those pivotal moments in our lives when God worked through some event that was either unexpected or seemed insignificant at the time. Looking back on your life, can you think of pivotal times when God was working His purpose in you? Explain.

Describe how you felt at the time you were experiencing it (for instance, did you feel that God was in control or that things were out of control at the time) and describe how you feel about it now? If you are willing, share this with your growth group.

Looking at your current situation, is it possible that you are in a pivotal moment and you don't even know it, either because your situation seems too insignificant or because God's timing and methods seem out of control, confusing or absent?

Ask the Lord this week to reveal whether your circumstance is a pivotal moment in your life that He has brought you to. If you are willing, share your situation with your growth group. There is wisdom in the counsel of many and perhaps you will gain some new insight from your group members.

Why We Hope In God's Methods

Why We Hope – Part 3 of 5 (Esther 5-6)

Pastor John Fanous

May 26, 2013

What We Mean By "God's Methods"

_____ and _____ God does something

What God Often Says When We Wonder About His Methods:

Job 38:1-40:2

"I'm God, and _____. Trust me."

Symptoms of Having a Hard Time Trusting God's Methods

1. We feel regular _____
2. We have a hard time taking _____

How to Hope in God's Methods

1. Hand over your worries to God in _____
Esther 4:15-17
2. Say, "God is in _____"
Esther 5-6

Why We Hope

Practicals:

1. Spend time GRIEVING the loss with God
2. Ask God's help to forgive the OFFENDER
3. Live with HOPE

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

Growth Group Homework

For the Week of May 26, 2013

MY STORY

1. What one or two things from this series have benefited you and do you hope to apply, or study up on, or pray about?
2. Is there anything that you find challenging, frustrating, or confusing about WHEN (timing) and HOW (methods) God works in your life?
3. Can you think of something that encourages you about WHEN and HOW God works?

DIGGING DEEPER

In the weeks we have spent in Esther, a continual theme has been, “why we hope”. Read Romans 8:23-39.

1. In verses 23-25 what is the hope Paul is referring to?

How does that hope affect the here and now?

2. Last Sunday Pastor John talked about handing over your worries to God in prayer and fasting. After reading verses 26 & 27, what do you find hopeful in these verses as it relates to prayer?

Can you describe a time when you felt the Spirit helped you pray when you did, “not know what to pray for as you ought to”, either in a personal situation or for someone/something else?

3. Perhaps one of the most hopeful aspects to our lives is the fact that God is in control. Describe that larger purpose God has for you (and for His people) as you see it in verses 28-30. (Note: for now, don’t get into the predestination controversy – concentrate on God’s larger purpose.)

How does this bring you a new or different perspective on God being in control and having a definite purpose for you?

4. In verses 31-39 Paul puts the gospel message at the very center of why we can hope as we do (note particularly v.34). Notice all the blessings we receive in these verses this side of heaven. Have you ever considered that the gospel message is not just good news for getting to heaven someday in the future but is actually good news for whatever circumstances you find yourself in right now?

Consider how the gospel story depicts an active God who is in control and whose timing and methods are perfectly arranged. In light of that, how can you better trust that God is in control and how can you more regularly reflect on and apply aspects of this good news to your daily life?