



The Crisis of Hope

Read Luke 4:16-30. Before discussing the passage, flip over to Isaiah 61 and skim the chapters around it. What do you notice from the context of Isaiah 61?

If you were a Jew, what kind of expectations would you have from Isaiah's prophecy of the coming Messiah?

Look more closely at Isaiah 61:1-3. Why do you think Jesus stopped reading halfway through verse 2?

Jesus clearly attacked the religious integrity of his audience and he also attacked their national pride. The people obviously didn't like it, and tried to kill him. Why do you think they were so upset by what Jesus said?

The Jewish people of Nazareth were experiencing a crisis of hope where what they were hoping for seemed to be wrong. However, Jesus didn't read the passages in Isaiah about the **results**. He read the passage about the **person** and claimed to be that person! In other words, Jesus began to draw the distinction between what we hope for and who we hope in.

How does what you hope for affect who you hope in?

Considering the current leadership culture of our world, what are some things people are hoping for? How do those hopes affect the leaders people are looking for?

What do you think of this statement:

If what you hope for controls who you hope in, you will be often disappointed, but if you simply put your hope in the right person, you will be often surprised!

Hope is Rising

Read Luke 7:11-16. Isaiah's prophecy said "to bind up the brokenhearted," but Jesus applied it by actually restoring a dead man to life! What does that teach you about the way Jesus plans to fulfill prophecy?

Take it Home

Consider this prayer:

"Jesus, I have been hoping for _____, but I want to hope in you..."

What does that mean for you these days?



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