

Hope-Filled Holiness

1 Peter 1:13-21

Leader Discussion guide

Sermon Summary:

God is holy (separate, distinct, morally pure, unique, not like us). We have a tendency to imagine God who is like us, but God is not open to being reimagined or reshaped into our image. Instead, He calls His people to holiness (becoming like God in our conduct). What we hope in impacts our daily living. If we are hoping in the Christ (and His return) that will positively impact our drive to become like God and grow in holiness. Further, our relationship to God and our salvation by God propel us toward growing in holiness.

Illustrations Used:

- Olympic Athletes
- Cleaning up before Stephanie Gets home
- Martin Luther said he only had two days in his calendar, "This day, and that Day."
- Jumping off the cliff - "swim"
- Ransom is a commercial term used to describe the price paid to purchase a slave's freedom or to set a war captive free.
- Brand new car - gratitude will show up in the way you treat the car.

Comprehension Questions:

1. Before this week's sermon, what would you say your definition of holiness was? Did you lean toward Rulebook holiness, hard work holiness, or oppositional holiness?
2. How was holiness defined in the sermon? What is the difference between your previous view and this new definition?
3. Important question: What is the connection between hope and holiness?
 - a. Review the following illustrations: Olympic Athletes, Cleaning up, and Martin Luther. This will help illustrate the connection between hope and holiness
4. In the third point about our salvation by God, Mark read from v18 about "knowing" that you were ransomed. How does the value of the price paid for our ransom impact 1) small (presumptuous) sin, 2) living a holy life, and 3) responding to grace with gratitude (brand new car illustration)?

Application Questions:

1. How do the things we hope in affect our behavior?
2. Important question that may reveal the heart: What are you setting your hope on? What are you looking forward to? For Joy?
3. What happens when people set their hope on: 1) easy pleasurable life or 2) approval of others? (See 1,e in the outline for help with this)
4. If holiness is becoming like God in our conduct? How do we do that (in light of our relationship to God, as obedient children, gratitude, and cliff jumping illustration)?
5. In light of the connection between hope, our heart, and growing in holiness, what is God doing in your heart to challenge you to grow in holiness?

Extended Outline:

Introduction: v16 - God is holy. That means he is separate. Distinct. Morally pure and unique. He is not like us. We all have a tendency to imagine a God who is like us. Or at least who acts and thinks like we think God should act. But God is not trying to make sure he fits in. God is holy. He is not open to being reimagined and reshaped into our image. Instead, He calls His people to holiness.

Wrong approaches to holiness:

Illus: Rulebook holiness / Hard work holiness / Oppositional holiness.

app: There are elements in all that are helpful. The problem with them all, is that they are attempts to be holy apart from the holy God. In this passage, God is calling us to a hope-filled holiness, that flows out of our relationship with Him. 3 keys to holiness.

1. Hope in God.

- a. The book's first command is in verse 13. "Set your hope fully"
 - i. Peter outlines the hope in verses 3-9.
 - ii. V13, "therefore," set your hope....
- b. What you are hoping in, affects your behavior. What you are looking forward to in the future will inevitably shape the way you live today.
 - i. **Illus:** Olympic Athletes
 - ii. **Illus:** Cleaning up the house before Stephanie returns.
- c. V13-God commands us to set our hope FULLY on the revelation of Christ.
 - i. When we do that, Christ's priorities will become our priorities. Our aim will be to please Him.
 1. **Illus:** Martin Luther said that he only had 2 days in his calendar, "This day, and that Day."
 2. **App:** Live for that day!
- d. V13a – If this is going to happen, we must prepare our minds for action and be sober-minded. Jesus is returning, On that day, it will be SO clear what really mattered. Set your hope fully there.
- e. **App:** What are you setting your hope on? What are you looking forward to for satisfaction? For joy?
 - i. If you are setting your hope on an easy, pleasurable life, that will shape your conduct: avoidance, self-indulgence, selfish use of money, when pain comes joy leaves.
 - ii. If you are setting your hope on the approval of others....
 1. Result in things like worry, hiding, conforming to others.
 - iii. If you are setting your hope fully on the grace to be revealed when Christ returns, that will shape your outlook and behavior.
 1. Your aim will be to walk in a way that pleases Him and that helps prepare others for that Day.

2. Our relationship to God.

- a. In verses 14-17 we are called to be holy as a result of the relationship we have with God. He highlights several aspects of our relationship to God:
- b. **V14 – "As obedient children" of God our Father.**
 - i. You don't pursue holiness in order to become a child of God, you pursue holiness because you are a child of God.
 - ii. V3 – This happened through being born again.

1. Be who you are.
- iii. This involves not just going with the flow.
 1. V14 - Don't be conformed to passions. V18 - futile ways.
 2. **Illus:** Jumping off the cliff. As current banged me into the rocks my brother yelled, "swim!" Remember - you can swim.
 3. **App:** Same idea: You are an obedient child of God. Be who you are. Don't conform. Swim!
- c. **V15 - We were called by God**
 - i. This word is talking about God's powerful work. Look at 2:9
 - ii. He called us into something: to be like Him.
 1. V15 - "as He who called you is holy, you also be holy."
 2. V16 - "Be holy, for I am holy."
 - a. This is holiness - becoming like God in our conduct.
 - b. **Example:** see Ephesians 5:1-2
- d. **V17 - Our Father is the impartial judge.**
 - i. The hope we have in Jesus and the relationship we have with God is not to lead us to presume on God's grace.
 1. Sin is so terrible and God is so holy that Christ had to die to pay for our sin. Sin is so terrible and God is so holy that all those who do not repent and receive forgiveness through faith in Christ, will be punished forever. Sin is so serious and God is so holy that God will discipline his children to make us holy (Hebrews 12). This discipline is for our good, but is painful.
 2. As our Father, we are accountable to Him for our conduct.
 - a. When we draw closer to God, we don't grow more flippant or casual about sin. The closer we draw to God our Father, the more we hope in Christ, and the more seriously we take eternity, the more we will conduct ourselves with fear, reverence, and awe. The more holy we live.

3. Our salvation by God.

- a. V18 - "knowing" that you were ransomed.
 - i. **Illus:** "Ransom" is a commercial term used to describe the price paid to purchase a slave's freedom or to set a war captive free.
 - ii. **App:** God paid the price to set us free.
- b. Look at the value of the price that was paid for our ransom:
 - i. V18b - Not perishable things. V19 - The precious blood of Christ.
- c. **App:** Knowing this, believing this, helps us live holy lives:
 - i. We respond to his grace with gratitude. Our salvation was purchased at the highest price. We respond by gratefully living for Him.
- d. **Illus:** Someone gives you a brand new nice car. Gratitude will show up in the way you treat the car.
 - i. **App:** God has given us something infinitely greater. Let us live for Him.