

**NEWS AND VIEWS**  
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full  
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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*Hope...* I wonder what it would be like to go through this life carrying this name. I recall there was a popular comedian who bore Hope as a surname and lived to be 100 years old. One of his lifelong commitments was to perform for active military soldiers deployed around the world serving away from home. Having lived through that kind of experience, once being a young military man stationed a long way from home, I learned what it was like to yearn for home and hope. I have also known a couple of people who had been given the name Hope as a first name and they seemed to always portray an optimistic attitude. They lived up to their name, one might say. I am truly glad that I was not given such a lofty name. With my natural inclination to see the downside of the upside I would have greatly disappointed many had I been named Hope. I haven't always been a picture of hope. So what does hope look like? And what does hope sound like? Consider the following:

*As Jesus was approaching Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the road begging. Now hearing a crowd going by, he began to inquire what this was. They told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he called out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet; but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped and commanded that he be brought to Him; and when he came near, He questioned him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And he said, "Lord, I want to regain my sight!" And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God. (Luke 18:35-43)*

*Hope* is made for hearing. When the blind man hears of Jesus...he hopes. He was a blind man begging...not much to be optimistic about. A lot of darkness in his world. But hope is made for hearing. And he begins to ask the question...what is it that the crowd is following? He learns it is a Who...not a What. *They told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.* Jesus of Nazareth was A Person...not an event. Bookmark that verse for future use! In our darkest situations and most hopeless circumstances, Jesus is still passing by. We see in the passage that a blind beggar knows what many of the religious elite of his day have not discovered, or will not acknowledge. Jesus is called Son of David...acknowledged to be Messiah...He is King Jesus. And this King is beseeched for mercy. When you are a beggar...it is easy to ask the King for what you desire the most. When is the last time you have seen yourself as a blind beggar in the presence of a merciful God? Jesus asks him about his desire. What does the blind beggar desire? He desires that his hope will be realized. The man wants to see...*again*. And he wants Jesus to help him because this is something he cannot do for himself. No home remedies can be applied to restore his sight. Only the action of Jesus through His word, and according to the faith of the blind man, and this hope is activated. The reality is that hope is made for hearing...faith comes by hearing...and hearing by the word of God. For those of us who have lost hope and want to regain what we once had...let your ears hear about Jesus...let your mouth cry out to Jesus...Believe and trust that the word of God has portrayed the Lord faithfully. Believe that Jesus passing by is not only the good news of the gospel...it's the best news of our day. Hope is made for hearing and then put on display for seeing...let others see you following Jesus, glorifying God for others to witness.

*...and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God.* Hope is made for hearing and seeing.

Got hope today? Speak it...others need to hear it...live it...following Jesus is where hope comes alive! There's a lot of folks need to see hope today and hear about where they might find it.

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam