

Sunday, October 4, 2015

“When Hope Isn’t Foolish”

Fourth in the Series, “Inspired: The Whole of Life with God in the Picture”

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What Does Non-Foolish Hope Look Like?

1. Hope is investing in the best options we have, whether or not they seem good enough.
2. Hope is trusting that God can do what none of us can.
3. Hope is confident expectation, based on evidence that not everyone is seeing.

Choosing Hope Today

1. Ask God for an increase in hope and courage in your primary work.
2. Particularly look for hope anywhere you’re persistently angry.
3. Study all available evidence of God’s dependability and goodness.
4. Where you have cause for hope, invest as much as you can.

RUTH 2:1-4 (NLT)

¹ Now there was a wealthy and influential man in Bethlehem named Boaz, who was a relative of Naomi’s husband, Elimelech.

² One day Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go out into the harvest fields to pick up the stalks of grain left behind by anyone who is kind enough to let me do it.”

Naomi replied, “All right, my daughter, go ahead.” ³ So Ruth went out to gather grain behind the harvesters. And as it happened, she found herself working in a field that belonged to Boaz, the relative of her father-in-law, Elimelech.

⁴ While she was there, Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters. “The LORD be with you!” he said.

“The LORD bless you!” the harvesters replied.

Mark 4:26-32 (NLT)

²⁶ Jesus also said, “The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, while he’s asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. ²⁸ The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. ²⁹ And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come.”

³⁰ Jesus said, “How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, ³² but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade.”