



Life finds a way – pastor Jerry

Perhaps you remember the line from the movie Jurassic Park where Jeff Goldblum says, “Life finds a way.” The setup for this quintessential hope quote was a conversation with a scientist who is confident they’ve prevented dinosaurs from breeding. Yeah, right.

Life finds a way. Cub fans were vindicated with a World Series win in 2016 after a 109 year drought. I’ve noticed, and perhaps you have too, that hope grows like a thirst on a hot July day at the beach. The longer hope remains unfulfilled, the more precious it is when liberation comes. Think ice-cold Coke: “Ahhhh!” Think V-E Day and V-J Day when WWII was finally over.

I’m reminded of Naomi in the Old Testament book of Ruth. I’m sure she was filled with hope when she married Elimelec; after all her name means “pleasant” and his means “my God is king.” But, a famine forced them to move with their two sons from their home in Judea to Moab where all three men died. Naomi changed her name to Mara which means “bitterness.”

That’s what dried up hope does – it takes the pleasant and makes it bitter. I think of the two broken hearted disciples on that first Easter Sunday trudging toward Emmaus. “We had hoped... but.” And, it’s a big but; the kind you can’t ignore; the kind that sucks the joy out of life and isolates you much like a virus that’s spanned and shut down the globe in a few weeks.

We had hoped... it wouldn’t come to America. We had hoped the number infected and who’ve died would be small. We had hoped that we could rise above the partisan politics that polarize us. We had hoped... But, we’re bitter. God wants to make us better. Life finds a way.

Hebrews 11:1, *“What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.”* What is it that we’re not seeing?

When Naomi had lost hope her widowed daughter-in-law found faith. Ruth 1:16, Ruth replied, *“Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.”* And, God provided.

When the discouraged disciples stopped for the night, Jesus ended their flight. Luke 24:31-32, *Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared! They said to each other, “Didn't our hearts feel strangely warm as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?”* Jesus – Immanuel – God is with us.

Life finds a way. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. The One who wove the thread of hope into creation’s fabric wants to bring that hope to you. It’s not easy but it is simple. Think about the tenacity of a century of Cubs fans. Consider Ruth’s choice and the disciples’ decision. Maybe what you’re not seeing is right in front of your heart. Believe. Life finds a way.