

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM JANUARY 19, 2014

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Matthew 4:23-25

“Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them. Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan.”



When we began this series, I said we should not study a subject by merely using a concordance to search out a certain word. The use of “hope” in the Gospels is an excellent illustration. One would be completely mistaken to conclude that there is little “hope” in the Gospels because the word “hope” is found there only twice. The problem in the Gospels is that the “hope” which we find is a misguided hope. In fact, hopes (expectations) were running high in Israel at the time of our Lord’s earthly ministry, but they were mistaken hopes, based upon wrong motives and expectations.

I believe it is safe to say from the hopes of the crowds looking to be fed to the hopes John the Baptist and the twelve disciples had that all were focused on what they expected Jesus to do for them. Yet each of them would falter in their faith and see that their hope had been rooted in false expectations of what the Messiah was supposed to do for them. And I would suggest, we are not that different in the foundations of our hope. There are several common characteristics between the misguided hope we see in people of the gospels and believers today which causes all of us problems when the future looks less promising than we have hoped.

The primary problem is our focus is fixed on present earthly blessings rather than on future heavenly blessings. The disciples continually asked Jesus about the kingdom and when it was coming. Jesus had told them that they would in the future sit on twelve thrones but they were eager to do so in the present. Jesus was quite clear in distinguishing between the “now,” with its troubles and sacrifices, and the “then” of the kingdom, with all of its glorious benefits. Jesus did not say there were no present blessings, but He did not obscure the line between present blessings with difficulties and ultimate eternal blessings. A disciple should live in the present in a way that “lays up treasure” in heaven, understanding he should expect little recognition from the world.

Far from hope being absent in the Gospels, I believe that correctly understanding hope is crucial to understanding what is happening in the Gospels. Reading the Gospels from the perspective of hope may be a new way of thinking through the life of Christ, but I believe that it is more than worth the time and effort to do so. My prayer is this study of hope in the Gospels opens our eyes to the hope of heaven and exposes areas in our lives where our hope has been built on something less than the blood and righteousness of Jesus.

Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

9642 Live Oak Ave. • Temple City, CA 91780

(626) 287-6120 • PastorAndy@SunriseTC.org • www.SunriseTC.org

JANUARY 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE

January 2014

- Jan. 19** 8:45 a.m. **Hope & Change God's Way**
Hope in the Gospels
- 10:30 a.m. **Adult Sunday School**
- Jan. 21** 7:00 p.m. **Bible Study in Ephesians returns to the Kikkert's house**
- Jan. 24** 6:30 p.m. **Friday Night Fellowship**
- Jan. 26** 8:45 a.m. **Hope & Change God's Way**
The Hope of Heaven

Attorney: Teacher stops 1st-grader from talking about Jesus

[HTTP://TEMECULA.PATCH.COM](http://temecula.patch.com) cited at [WWW.PERSECUTION.ORG](http://www.persecution.org)

Legal action alleging religious discrimination may potentially be brought against the Temecula Valley Unified School District following an incident in which a teacher purportedly stopped a first-grader from finishing a presentation about the Star of Bethlehem and what it meant to her family at Christmas-time.

Advocates for Faith & Freedom, a Murrieta-based non-profit legal firm whose stated mission is to "protect religious liberty in the courts," sent a seven-page demand letter Monday to TVUSD's superintendent and board president regarding the Dec. 18, 2013 incident at Helen Hunt Jackson Elementary School.

According to the letter, the student, Brynn Williams, brought the Star of Bethlehem to school as part of an assignment to find something at home that represents a family Christmas tradition, put it in a canvas bag provided by the teacher, bring it to school, and be prepared to share the family tradition.

The letter alleged that as Brynn was in the midst of giving her one-minute presentation, the teacher said: "Stop right there! Go take your seat!"

Brynn was allegedly not allowed to finish her presentation by reciting the Bible verse, John 3:16 and the only student not allowed to finish her presentation

"After Brynn took her seat, the teacher explained to Brynn in front of all the other students that she was not allowed to talk about the Bible or share its verses," Advocates for Faith & Freedom stated.

Advocates for Faith & Freedom threatened further legal action if an appropriate response is not received from TVUSD by Jan. 20.

The Hymns We Sing

COURTESY OF THE CYBER HYMNAL™

<http://www.hymntime.com/>

The Lily Of The Valley

Hymn page: <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/html/i/i/lilyvall.htm>

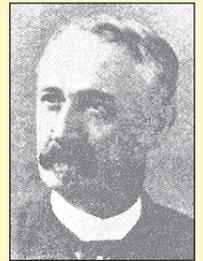
Tune: http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/i/i/lily_of_the_valley.mid

"I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys."

Song of Solomon 2:1



Charles W. Fry (1838-1882) and family



William S. Hays (1837-1907)

Words: Charles W. Fry, 1881; first appeared in the Salvation Army's *The War Cry*, December 29, 1881. Fry wrote the lyrics in Lincoln, England, while working with the Salvation Army there.

Music: William S. Hays; adapted by Charles W. Fry

I have found a friend in Jesus, He's everything to me,
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul;
The Lily of the Valley, in Him alone I see
All I need to cleanse and make me fully whole.
In sorrow He's my comfort, in trouble He's my stay;
He tells me every care on Him to roll.

Refrain

*He's the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star,
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.*

He all my grief has taken, and all my sorrows borne;
In temptation He's my strong and mighty tower;
I have all for Him forsaken, and all my idols torn
From my heart and now He keeps me by His power.
Though all the world forsake me, and Satan tempt me sore,
Through Jesus I shall safely reach the goal.

Refrain

He will never, never leave me, nor yet forsake me here,
While I live by faith and do His blessed will;
A wall of fire about me, I've nothing now to fear,
From His manna He my hungry soul shall fill.
Then sweeping up to glory to see His blessed face,
Where the rivers of delight shall ever roll.

Refrain

A young Jewess had been converted in London through her German governess. She had been forbidden to read the New Testament by her parents, who were ardent Jews; but while reading Isaiah 53 she found the Messiah, and was soon expelled from her home. She then went to Germany, and herself acted as governess for several years.

When she heard of Mr. Moody's work at Northfield [Massachusetts], she decided to go there. Having been entertained in London for a few weeks by Mr. Denny, a prominent layman, this gentleman asked me one day in London, as I was about to sail for America, if I would see her safely across the ocean,

which I promised to do. In Louisville she first saw Mr. Moody.

On leaving Louisville she went to New York and applied to the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions for appointment as a foreign missionary. There being some delay in accepting her application, she decided to go with the Rev. Hudson Taylor, whom she had met at Northfield. On arriving in China she adopted the garb of the Chinese women, and became a faithful and useful worker. After two years she was married to a missionary from Scotland. They are still engaged in missionary work in Northern China.

— Ira Sankey