

Regeneration of Hope: Have faith, be ready, take action.

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Luke 12:32-40

³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near, and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks, they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. ³⁸ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. ³⁹ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

Introduction

This passage of Luke 12:32-40 is part of the same chapter of warnings and encouragement we considered last week. Here Jesus continues to invite us to trust not material wealth but the God of life, where all who want to ditch greed securely keep their treasures, getting prepared and ready to participate in the constant process of transforming evil into blessings.

The challenge when trusting only what we see is that the tendency of what we see around us can turn chaotic, and in such circumstances, the trend is to lose hope.

Anyone who focuses so much on the indicators of the market when it is up will experience a lot of dissatisfaction and even depression when the market indicators go down.

In fact, if we pay too much attention to the news at this time, we may be so disappointed that we may be on the verge of losing the joy of being alive.

Where can we regenerate hope when facing the realities of climate change, the heat waves we experienced last week, the floods, the fires, and even our life struggles?

The Sources for Hope Regeneration

In this passage, Jesus clearly says you will not find it in material things, so you must find it in the manifestations of the power of love that is also connected with chaos. Yes, let us stop trying to have it all together. We won't. Let us stop looking at the mess. We will be disappointed. Jesus says, let us look for hope in the voice of love around us.

For example, Paul Hawken, author of the book *Regeneration: Ending the climate crisis in one generation*, puts it in this way:

"I have three reasons for hope: the energy and commitment of youth; the resilience of nature (take, for example, how the forest returned in Gombe Africa); in the way animal and plant species can be rescued from extinction; and in the human intellect, which is awakening and focusing on discovering how we can live in greater harmony with nature."

Please note how Hawken is also signaling the same message Jesus is teaching in this passage: Do not focus on the chaos. Seek to regenerate hope in the power of love manifested in the life around us.

When we focus on money and material richness, we become so centered on ourselves, so focused on controlling, and frankly, we cannot have total control of anything. All things change and will continue to change, we find suffering in trying to hold on with all our might, and then the thief called change takes it away.

Please consider doing the exercise with me about holding on (During Sermon).

Jesus is saying you must be ready to welcome the power of the regeneration of hope by letting go. Let us be open to becoming whole. We are not broken. We are

fundamentally good and complete; we do not have it altogether, but we can regenerate our hope, take action for a better life, and create new ways.

Jesus invites us to ditch greed and invest in the reality where the power of love generates the richness of life despite market changes. Money is not all we need.

Paul Hawken, as Jesus, invites us to do the same, to regenerate hope.

Can we regenerate our hope by focusing on the energy of the young? I say yes!

Let us focus on the thousands and millions of young people working together on issues such as wildlife trafficking, homelessness, LGBTQ+ rights, women's rights, immigrant rights, animal rights, discrimination, and many other problems.

Consider, for example, finding hope in the power of sea forestation using seaweeds which does not demand advanced technology and creates protection for fish and other marine life. Some seaweed species can be used in small quantities in cattle diets to reduce 50 to 90 percent of methane gas. Wow, that gives us hope! (Hawken p. 21-25)

When we focus on these possibilities, we give up the negative attitudes and thoughts and welcome hope and creativity. We are inspired to act even by taking small steps towards the liberation of life on our planet.

In conclusion:

Where can we find reasons to regenerate our hope and be ready to become creative again and again and again and transform chaos and destruction? For sure, Jesus invites us to find hope in the beloved community that includes us and all creation, not in material possessions or money. God is always creating life and is inviting us to also become co-creators.

We must not forget that great movements started with two or three people gathering, seeking to be creative and play with the power of regeneration!

Hope comes when we pay attention to our planet's power to regenerate!

Hope is regenerated when we pay attention to the passion and commitment of the young here and around the world!

Hope is regenerated when we organize to take action collectively because life is better together.

In this passage, the warning is not to trust material treasures, and the encouragement is to live the present continually unveiling the hope we find in us and around us:

- The birds are still chirping
- The oceans are still giving us food
- The soil is still ready to help us with billions of micro-organisms to restore life.

Let us have faith, be ready, act, and be part of the regeneration of life here and around the world. Today technology makes it possible to reach out to friends even on the other side of the planet.

The problem is complex, but tens of thousands of organizations, teachers, companies, architects, engineers, missionaries, farmers, pastors, shamans, indigenous cultures, and native leaders are taking action with their pearls of wisdom, and hundreds of thousands are getting involved collectively. It is possible.

We must alleviate poverty, address unsustainable lifestyles, achieve social justice, foster the provision of affordable housing for people with the lowest incomes, and provide universal health care and education for all. Addressing these issues is addressing the climate crisis.

The Word of God of all!

Glory be to God! Amen.

Notes

1. To explore Seaforestation please visit

<https://regeneration.org/nexus/seaforestation>

2. To continue discovering sources for the REGENERATION OF HOPE please visit the following website:

<https://regeneration.org/nexus>

3. Hawken, Paul. Regeneration. Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

4. Be inspired visit <https://regeneration.org/>