

“Living From the Future”

I Peter 1: 3-9

by

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We are in a unique period of the Church year. It's the 50-day time period between the resurrection of Jesus and the beginning of the Christian faith that began on the day of Pentecost. Here was a group of ordinary, everyday people who saw their leader die before their eyes, had all their hopes dashed, and went back to their previous occupations of fishing and village life. What tremendous disappointment they must have felt. One day they were somebodies, the next day they were nobodies. One day they were the center of attention, the next day they were invisible. One day they were on top of the world, the next day the world was on top of them. One day they were filled with hope and joy, the next day they were filled with hopelessness and sadness.

Something happened in those 50 days that turned the world right side up again. Something happened that turned fishermen into fishers of men; that turned cowards into the courageous; that turned ordinary people into extraordinary people of God. What happened is that the risen Lord showed Himself alive forever and imparted to them His own Holy Spirit.

The reason this is a big deal is because it took people who **lived from the past** and transformed them into those who would **live from the future**. This is important because people without hope become hopeless. If there is no hope that our work makes a difference we lose morale and motivation. If there is no hope for health we become sick. If there is no hope for justice, we end up living as victims. If there is no hope for forgiveness, then change becomes hopeless. If there is no hope for life eternal life doesn't matter so much.

Hope gives energy to our faith; it gives motivation to persevere in our adversity; it lifts joy out of tragedy; it gives the possibility of reconciliation after brokenness. Hope is what keeps us truly alive. However, hope that is not based on reality only becomes a mindful fantasy and will not stand-up under the intense pressures of everyday life. Our scripture text today says it so beautifully, “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.*”

The Jewish community celebrates hope during the Passover Seder. Had they lived from the past, they would have died in hopeless slavery under the Egyptians or totally crushed under the Holocaust during World War II. They live from the future hope and reality that God will continue to be their Deliverer. I pray that we can live individually and as a community of hope. Live from the future this week and see what God will do. Have a hopeful one.

