

Bible Study Questions

9th February 2025

Introduction

The below painting was painted by George Gittoes and is called "The Preacher". It depicts a lone preacher that Gittoes saw in a Rwandan refugee camp in 1995, who was preaching through the Sermon on the Mount to a small crowd gathered around him. He preached knowing that in a few moments they would all be killed.



Discuss the painting and what it tells us about the reality of Christian hope.

Read & Reflect

READ **2 Cor 4:6-18** at least twice using different versions of the Bibles. As you read or listen to the words, reflect and share on the following:

1. What stands out or what do you notice?
2. What questions are raised for you?
3. What might the Holy Spirit be saying to you?

Questions

Most people understand hope as wishful thinking, as in "I hope something will happen." This is not what the Bible means by hope. The biblical definition of *hope* is "confident expectation." I Cor 13:13 puts hope with faith and love as the 3 most important virtues.

4. What was Paul's confident expectation? How did it enable the believers in Corinth under persecution not to lose heart and how does it apply to us today? (verses 16-18)
5. Have you examples in your life where your Christian hope enabled you to keep going despite the circumstances you were facing?
6. When we consider our hope as Christians (read some or all of Rom 8:23-25. Hebrews 6:11,19-20, Col 1:4-5, 1 Peter 1:3-5) what should our response to these promises be today?
7. Read Titus 2:11-14. Does the future hope we have in Christ have any effect on your day-to-day decisions and, if so, what?