The Essentials: Hope

Session 9: Deuteronomy 34:1-8 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-26

Opening Collect

> *Together:* Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Read: Deuteronomy 34:1-8 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-26

Opening Thought:

We long for what we cannot yet receive.

Discussion:

1. Have you ever hoped for something that never came to fruition? Share with your group.
2. As our passage describes, Moses never reaches the promised land. What does he accomplish? And what hope does he have even as he dies looking across the Jordan River?
3. Have you ever thought about the things that might never happen in your life? What could bring you hope even if your life doesn't work out the way you'd hoped it would?
4. In our passage from 1 Corinthians, Paul attempts to prove the veracity of Jesus' resurrection, and he really doubles down on the reality of this event. How might the truth of that event give some objective ground to your hope?
5. What about our future resurrected lives excites you, even while we live in a world of difficulty and pain? What about your current life excites you? Do you think that will be present in new Kingdom of God? Share with your group.

Check in and Closing Prayer

Deuteronomy 34:1-8

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite
Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, [2] all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim
and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, [3] the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley
of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. [4] And the Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I
swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, 'I will give it to your offspring.' I have let you see it with your
eyes, but you shall not go over there." [5] So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab,
according to the word of the Lord, [6] and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-
peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. [7] Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye
was undimmed, and his vigor unabated. [8] And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab
thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

1 Corinthians 15:1-26

Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in
turn received, in which also you stand, [2] through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the
message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

[3] For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in
accordance with the scriptures [4] and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in
accordance with the scriptures [5] and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. [6] Then he appeared to
more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have
died. [7] Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. [8] Last of all, as to one untimely born, he
appeared also to me. [9] For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted
the church of God. [10] But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in
vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is
with me. [11] Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

[12] Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of
the dead? [13] If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised, [14] and if Christ has not
been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain. [15] We are even found to be
misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true
that the dead are not raised. [16] For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. [17] If Christ
has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. [18] Then those also who have died in
Christ have perished. [19] If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

[20] But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. [21] For since death
came through a human, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human, [22] for as all die in
Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. [23] But each in its own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his
coming those who belong to Christ. [24] Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the
Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. [25] For he must reign until he has
put all his enemies under his feet. [26] The last enemy to be destroyed is death.