



Lesson 5

April 4, 2021

My Hope Is Built

John worked as the assistant manager of the local movie theatre. The salary was not great, and he struggled to make ends meet, taking on extra work as a handyman and using his van to double as a workshop on wheels. John could fix almost anything, and he was skilled in plumbing, carpentry, and flooring work. Fortunately, he was also a very talented musician and began playing with a local band. Before long, the band earned a great reputation and started booking engagements every weekend to play at weddings, nightclubs, parties, and celebrations of every sort.

This success afforded John the opportunity to finally purchase his first house. It was a house that had been abandoned years ago and the city was planning to tear it down. The house needed some work, but John was capable of doing much of the work himself. Things were going quite well in John's life with business booming on all fronts. For the first time in his life, John began to feel a sense of stability, which gave him great hope for the future.

Then came 2020, which brought with it the global pandemic that changed many lives forever. Businesses were forced to close their doors, many of them shut down forever. One of the hardest hit industries was entertainment, which of course included movie theatres and nightclubs. Large weddings, graduations, and other celebrations were postponed or cancelled for months. Those who were unable to shoulder the economic impact shut down permanently. John was in great despair, struggling just to stay afloat.

The movie theatre closed, and the band broke up. He had a little bit of money saved, but not enough to keep up with his bills. Needless to say, John began to despair and felt hopeless, knowing that he had no choice but to sell his house. He started to do the much-needed repairs on his house, with the hope that the improvements would allow him to sell it at the highest price. He was sad but kept working on the house for many hours every day.

As John began repairing the floor, he realized that some of the boards needed to be replaced. Under one of the boards, he noticed a strange looking cloth bag, covered with what looked like dust accumulated over many years. He opened it only to find that it was filled with what turned out to be over ten thousand dollars in cash. He shouted: "Keep hope alive!!"

Discussion Questions:

1. Is it a sin for believers to lose hope?
 2. One of the favorite hymns is “His Eye Is on the Sparrow.” If God is watching over me (us), why should I (we) feel discouraged?
 3. How can the church help society in times of crises and despair?
 4. If “God will take care of you,” should believers have to worry about things such as an economic crash or a pandemic?
 5. Does God still perform miracles?
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