

“store up
treasures
in heaven”



HOPE



hopelessness

one every 3
hours.....

65 000 suicide attempts
3000 deaths
main cause of death for 15-44's
mostly young people
75% males vs 25% females
2 indigenous:1 non-indigenous

but why?

stressful life events
trauma
mental illness
physical illness
drug or alcohol abuse

why hope?



Jesus the man of hope

hope

for the ill
for the marginalised
for the thinker
for us all

hope in illness



Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means "son of Timaeus"), was sitting by the roadside begging.

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Mark 10:46-52





"But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."

He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all.

This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Mark 2:10-12

"Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live."

The man took Jesus at his word and departed.⁵¹ While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living.⁵² When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him."

⁵³ Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and his whole household believed.

John 4:50-53

hope for the marginalised

"But let not the testimony of women be admitted, on account of the levity and boldness of their sex...since it is probable that they may not speak truth, either out of hope of gain, or fear of punishment."

"Josephus"

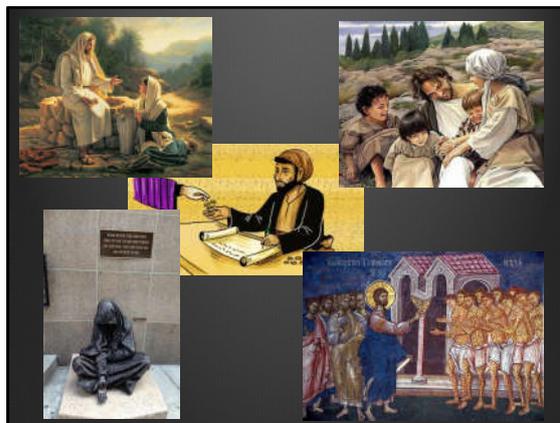
Antiquities of the Jews, 4.8.15.



"Any evidence which a woman [gives] is not valid (to offer).... This is equivalent to saying that one who is Rabbinically accounted a robber is qualified to give the same evidence as a woman."

Talmud,

Rosh Hashannah 1.8.



"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."'"



"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him....(and) said to his servants

"Bring quickly the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet, and let us eat and celebrate for this my son was dead and is alive, he was lost and is found"



Luke 15:20-24

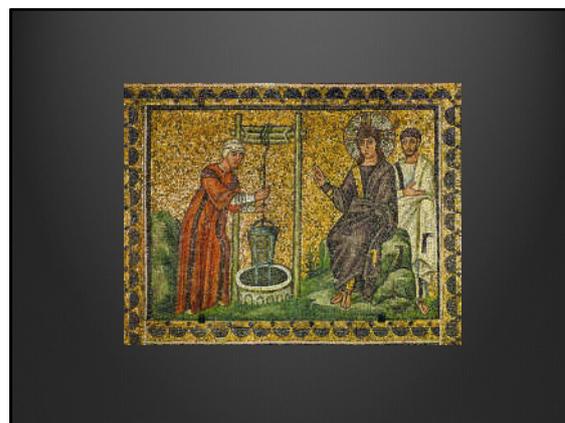
Hope for the thinker

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:68-69

Ask, and it will be given to you;
seek, and you will find;
knock, and it will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks receives,
and the one who seeks finds,
and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Matt 7:6-8





"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:31-32

"Father, into your hands
I commit my spirit!"



hope for us all



DEATH

Jesus answered them...

"No one can come to me
unless the Father who sent me draws him.
And I will raise him up on the last day."

John 6:43-44

