**Abundant Life Church**

**Sunday, May 10th, 2020**

**Title: Shout!**

**Text:**

**Intro:**

Review themes covered so far.

 -Joy in the face of difficulty

 -Pursuing a life of holiness

 -Loving the body of Christ

Today: Shout! The light and hope of Christ.

**9  But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**
**1 Peter 2:9 (NASB)**

The sad end of the book of Judges. The men have been reduced to living like barbarians because they have forsaken the law of God, each man is following the intent of his own heart instead of truth.

God places His people in dark moments to declare His glory.

**Ruth – The OT book details this incredible woman’s story.**

The world was telling her to shut up!

 Wrong ethnicity – A Moabite

 Wrong gender – A Woman

 Wrong Circumstances – Her husband, her father-in-law and her brother-in-law died. Leaving three women in a very vulnerable position. All these ladies were living through a horrible time of suffering.

She Started Shouting

**But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you *or* turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people *shall be* my people, and your God, my God.**
**Ruth 1:16 (NASB)**

 Walked in Faith - Your God will be my God

 Served in Love – Went to glean in the fields

Appealed to the Word of God – Called Boaz to step up and provide protection for his family’s inheritance.

The seed of greatness within her was a gift to Israel and to the World!

**Hannah –**

Suffered under the oppressive weight of not being able to have children. She was mocked by her rival, attempting to rob her of peace and joy. In Israel as this time the priesthood was scandalous. The priests were sexually immoral, robbed people of their offerings, treated God and offerings dedicated to Him with contempt.

10  She, greatly distressed, prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly.
11  She made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head."
**1 Samuel 1:10-11 (NASB)**

Hannah was nothing but a simple rural woman, whose passionate praying would be used to bring revival to Israel.

Both Ruth and Hannah allowed the difficulty of their present moment to drive them closer to God, to seek him in faith, to believe that God would work in their life. As a result they changed the world.

Ruth & Hannah’s faith were used of God to provide the spiritual and political leadership that would bring ancient Israel into its Golden Age and the promised Messiah would be called the Son of David. That David who was the seed of Rahab, and anointed King by Hannah’s son, Samuel.

**14  But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED,
15  but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;
1 Peter 3:14-15 (NASB)**

The choices have –

You can be intimidated, lose your confidence and starting wondering in the abyss of doubt.

You can be troubled, lose your peace and allow fear to run rampant through your soul.

OR

You can see this as a great opportunity to live under the Lordship of Christ and give the world HOPE!!!!

*“Our society is definitely in a collective state of trauma,” said Jonathan Porteus, PhD, a licensed clinical psychologist who oversees the crisis and*[*suicide*](https://www.webmd.com/depression/guide/depression-recognizing-signs-of-suicide)*hotline in Sacramento, CA.*

*“We do see an emerging potential crisis,” said Karestan Koenen, PhD, a professor of psychiatric epidemiology at Harvard’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health, during an*[*online*](https://theforum.sph.harvard.edu/events/the-coronavirus-pandemic-8/)*forum this week.* ***Connected***

*According to a recent Kaiser Family Foundation*[*poll*](https://www.kff.org/report-section/kff-health-tracking-poll-late-april-2020-economic-and-mental-health-impacts-of-coronavirus/)*, more than half of Americans -- 56% --reported that worry or stress related to the*[*outbreak*](https://www.webmd.com/cold-and-flu/what-are-epidemics-pandemics-outbreaks)*has led to at least one negative mental health effect. Those include trouble with eating or sleeping, drinking*[*alcohol*](https://www.webmd.com/food-recipes/rm-quiz-alcohol-myths-facts)*more, frequent*[*headaches*](https://www.webmd.com/migraines-headaches/migraines-headaches-basics)*or stomachaches, shorter tempers, and other health problems. Among frontline health care workers and their families, 64% reported worsened*[*mental health*](https://www.webmd.com/mental-health/mental-health-making-diagnosis)*, as did 65% of those who had lost income.*

*Another recent*[*report*](https://wellbeingtrust.org/news/new-wbt-robert-graham-center-analysis-the-covid-pandemic-could-lead-to-75000-additional-deaths-from-alcohol-and-drug-misuse-and-suicide/)*, released Friday from the Well Being Trust, said the pandemic could lead to 75,000 additional “deaths of despair” from drug and alcohol misuse and suicide due to unemployment, social isolation, and fears about the virus.*

<https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20200508/mental-health-emerging-crisis-of-covid-pandemic>

What questions are being generated by the way you are choosing to live your life?

What questions is your attitude raising?

Are you shining so differently that people are asking you questions about your hope?

Why aren’t you panicked?

Why are you so happy, peaceful, restful, blessed, joy-filled, full of God’s praises,…?

Not the anger that is within you, not the frustration or rage that is within you

Not the panic that is within you,

Not the fear that is within you,

Not the resentment that is within you

Not the insults that are coming out of your mouth

Is anybody asking about the hope that you possess and possesses you?

 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;
**Matthew 5:14 (NASB)**

 Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and *began* to recognize them as having been with Jesus.
**Acts 4:13 (NASB)**

1  I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2  My soul will make its boast in the LORD; The humble will hear it and rejoice.
3  O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together.
4  I sought the LORD, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears.

5  They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces will never be ashamed.
6  This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him And saved him out of all his troubles.
7  The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.

8  O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
9  O fear the LORD, you His saints; For to those who fear Him there is no want.
10  The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.
11  Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
12  Who is the man who desires life And loves *length of* days that he may see good?
13  Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit.
14  Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

15  The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous And His ears are *open* to their cry.
16  The face of the LORD is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth.
17  *The righteous* cry, and the LORD hears And delivers them out of all their troubles.
18  The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.

19  Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.
20  He keeps all his bones, Not one of them is broken.
21  Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
22  The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.
**Psalm 34:1-22 (NASB)**