

# Short Talk

(SHT148)

## Hope Restored

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ALL AGE WORSHIP  
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## SHORT TALK: “Hope Restored”

- Aim of Short talk:** To celebrate that on Easter Day Jesus restored hope to His disciples, when He appeared to them in His resurrection body.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Easter, Jesus, Resurrection, Hope, Peace
- Biblical references:** John 20:19-31
- Lectionary:** Year C – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter
- Props:** You will need 2 china (pottery) mugs that are exactly the same. You will also need a hammer and a table covered with a blanket. Leave one of the mugs visible to the congregation on the table.

I want you in your imaginations to travel back to Jerusalem 2000 years ago.

- Imagine that you are one of Jesus’ closest friends;
- one of His disciples.....his followers.

Imagine that you have been with Jesus for over 3 years, getting to know Him,

- travelling around with Him;
- listening to His wonderful teaching about the Kingdom of God, where things are done God’s way;
- seeing the blind, the lame and the sick healed after Jesus touched them;
- seeing thousands of people fed with a few loaves of bread and fishes after Jesus prayed over them;
- and gradually coming to the understanding that Jesus was the Son of God.....the Messiah, God’s King.

And then on Palm Sunday, when all the people gathered waving palms and singing Jesus’ praises as He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, you were really excited.

- Finally Jesus was going to become the long awaited King of Israel.
- Today, let this mug (*Hold up mug*) represent those hopes.....
- BUT then everything started to unravel.

A few days after entering Jerusalem, after eating the Passover meal together, you were there in the garden when Jesus was arrested.

- Judas, one of your group had betrayed Him.
- Your hopes of Jesus becoming King took the 1<sup>st</sup> blow. (*Cover the mug on the table with the blanket and hit it once with the hammer smashing it.*)

The next day you saw Pilate, the Roman governor present Jesus to the crowd.

- Pilate was ready to release Jesus, but the same crowd that had shouted “Hosanna” a few days earlier now shouted, “Crucify Him, crucify Him.”
- Your hopes of Jesus becoming King took the 2<sup>nd</sup> blow. (*Hit the mug a second time with the hammer smashing it further*)

Finally you saw Jesus hanging on a cross.

- Behind you someone shouted: “*Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!*” (Matthew 27:40)
- A part of you thought that this would be Jesus’ moment to show everyone that He really was the Son of God, the anointed King,
- but Jesus didn’t do that.
- After six hours of struggle He died.
- Your hopes of Jesus becoming King took the final blow. (*Hit the mug a third time with the hammer smashing it further*)

Now it is three days later and you are sitting in a room in Jerusalem with the other disciples.

- You are hiding.
- Terrified.
- Wondering when you too might be arrested for being one of Jesus’ friends.

All of your hopes about Jesus being King are gone. (*Hold up bits of the smashed mug*)

- Can you imagine how awful that must have been?
- How are you feeling?
- Desperate?
- Fearful?
- Miserable?
- Hope-less?

And then something amazing happens.

- Jesus appears in the room with you. But hang on, the doors are locked.
- How did that happen? Are you seeing a ghost?

Then Jesus speaks and says: “*Peace be with you!*” (John 20:21)

- He reassures you that He isn’t a ghost and you can touch the nail marks in His hands and side.
- This is wonderful. Jesus is alive again.
- He is who He said He was.....the Son of God.....God’s King.
- Your hope is restored. (*Pull out brand new mug to show the congregation*)

Outwardly the situation hasn’t changed.

- The Jewish authorities are still a threat, but now everything feels different because Jesus is alive and He is with you.
- Everything is different.

Now come back into the 21<sup>st</sup> century to your own life.

Maybe some of you are facing difficult times.

- Maybe some of you have had your hopes shattered,
- but the good news of the resurrection of Jesus is that He is with you in the midst of everyday life,
- just as He was with those first disciples.

His presence might not immediately change your situation,

- but He can bring us peace and hope in the midst of what we are going through because He is reigning as King.

[You might then lead people in a prayer inviting Jesus into their different situations asking for peace and hope.]