

Beauty for Ashes

by K.P. Yohannan

God's love and mercy offer hope and forgiveness to those who seek Him, regardless of their past or circumstances.

Scripture: Jeremiah 3:1, Hosea 2:14

Topics: "Hope", "Restoration"

Description

K.P. Yohannan emphasizes God's unwavering faithfulness to Israel despite her unfaithfulness and idolatry, illustrating that even in the face of sin, God offers hope and restoration. He highlights the profound message from Jeremiah and Hosea, where God invites His wayward people to return, promising to transform their despair into hope. Yohannan reassures that no sin is beyond God's forgiveness, no loss too great for Him to restore, and no scar too deep for His healing touch. He reminds us that as long as there is breath, there is hope, exemplified by the thief on the cross who found grace in his final moments. Ultimately, the sermon conveys that God is the ultimate rescuer, ready to embrace those who seek Him.

Transcript

The nation of Israel was betrothed to God. Yet she cast her beauty before every possible lover she could find, forsaking her true suitor. As we read through Psalm 78, we see time and again God's faithfulness displayed in contrast to Israel's unfaithfulness. In spite of her vulgar idolatry and the terrible offering of human sacrifices, God did not cut Israel off forever.

What does God say about her? " 'You have played the harlot with many lovers; Yet return to Me,' says the LORD" (Jeremiah 3:1, NKJV).

Instead of deserting Israel because of her countless sins, He declares that there is hope, saying, "I will win her back once again. I will lead her out into the desert and speak tenderly to her there. I will return her vineyards to her and transform the Valley of Trouble into a gateway of hope" (Hosea 2:14-15, NLT). These are gracious words from the living God about His adulterous people.

Today there is a gateway of hope. God is the original and ultimate rescuer. And for all who want to be rescued, He is able.

There is no sin too great,

God cannot forgive it.

There is no loss,

He cannot restore.

There is no scar,

He cannot heal.

There is no distance you can go,

His grace cannot reach.

There is nothing--absolutely nothing--

to stop His love and mercy for you.

If there is breath in your being,

there is hope.

There is hope.

The thief on the cross confessed that he failed miserably and admitted he deserved the horrible death he was dying. It was all over for him--hell waited, its mouth open to devour him. At least that was what he believed. Yet because of his confession and the marvelous grace of God, he made it into paradise that very day with the Son of God (see Luke 23:43).

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/kp-yohannan/beauty-for-ashes/>

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