

Courage When Life Is Shaking — Sermon Summary

The Central Question

How does hope grow while everything around you is shaking?

The answer: hope that doesn't shake must be tied to something the shaking cannot reach.

Jesus Had a Cause

Standing before Pilate hours before the cross, Jesus defined His entire existence around one word — not a vision, not a plan, but a *Cause*:

"Pilate therefore said to Him, 'Are You a king then?' Jesus answered, 'You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.'" — **John**

18:37

That Cause is identified in Matthew:

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people." —

Matthew 4:23

Deliverance, healing, and provision are real — but they are not the centre. They are what happens *around the King when He moves*. The Cause Jesus lived and died for is the coming of the King and the extension of His Kingdom — and as members of that Kingdom, this Cause is now ours.

A Vision vs. A Cause

Two critical distinctions:

1. A vision is something you hold onto. A Cause is something that takes hold of you. A vision can be written down, revisited, and set aside when it becomes costly. A Cause seizes you — rearranging your time, priorities, and comfort. It is confirmed at Oakhill by the hundreds serving quietly in Life Groups and small groups, with no stage and no spotlight. These are Peter's "living stones" (1 Peter 2:5) — the very house God said He would build.

2. A vision is about your future. The Cause is about His throne. Your personal vision sits on the throne of your circumstances — and circumstances shake. But the Cause doesn't depend on circumstances cooperating. The King was on His throne before your trouble started and will be there when it ends.

The Kingdom Is Within You

"Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, 'The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, "See here!" or "See there!" For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.'" — **Luke**

17:20–21

Two things stand out: the Kingdom does not come by *observation* — you cannot spectate your way into it. And it is *within you* — not at another church, not on a more spiritual person. The laws of this Kingdom are written on the heart by the Holy Spirit alone. You do not achieve it. You receive it.

The invitation: stop pointing outward and point the finger at yourself — *the Kingdom of God is within me*.

The Divided Kingdom

If the Kingdom is already within us, why does hope so often wobble? Jesus gives the diagnosis:

"But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: 'Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.'" —

Matthew 12:25

Most believers are not living for *no* kingdom — they are living for *two*. One hand on His throne, one hand on their own. A divided kingdom doesn't get partially blessed; it gets brought to desolation. This plays out in making Jesus a "constitutional monarch" — honoured on Sunday, but handed no real authority the rest of the week:

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?" — **Luke 6:46**

The undivided heart is not a harsh demand — it is a loving invitation to stop carrying the weight alone and open every area of life to the King's gentle rule.

God Shakes What Can Be Shaken

For those currently in the storm, the key question is *why* God allows shaking. The Word answers clearly:

"whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, 'Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.' Now this, 'Yet once more,' indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." —

Hebrews 12:26–28

The shaking is not punishment or abandonment. It removes what was always temporary so that what cannot be shaken may remain. It doesn't destroy hope — it reveals what hope is actually made of.

There is also a second kind of shaking — a *liberating* one:

"But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed." — **Acts 16:25–26**

Beaten, bleeding, locked in the inner cell — and they *sing*. They worship with no evidence anything will change. God then shakes the prison, not the men. Because their hope was not located in the cell, the earthquake became the breakthrough, not the curse. Sometimes the shaking *is* the deliverance.

Make Fast — The Central Revelation

"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." — **Hebrews 6:19–20**

Hope is an anchor — but it is not dropped *down* into circumstances. It is thrown *up*, behind the veil, into the throne room of God, made fast to Jesus who has entered there for us.

Hebrews 6 says hope is anchored behind the veil. Hebrews 12 says what is behind that veil is a Kingdom which cannot be shaken. Put them together and you get the sermon's defining sentence:

Your hope is only as shakeable as the thing it is tied to.

If hope is tied to circumstances, it shakes when they do. If it is made fast to the King and His Kingdom, the storm can do whatever it wants to the surface of life — the line holds. Not because of personal strength, but because of where the other end is tied.

The Call

Stop trying to steady your circumstances. Make fast your hope — deliberately, as an act and not a feeling — to the only thing in existence that cannot be shaken: the King Himself, and the Cause of His Kingdom.

Come not to *get* something, but to worship the King simply because He is the King. Like

Paul and Silas at midnight. Throw the anchor line behind the veil and let the unshakeable Kingdom hold you.

He is the King. His Kingdom cannot be shaken. And that Cause is worth your whole life.