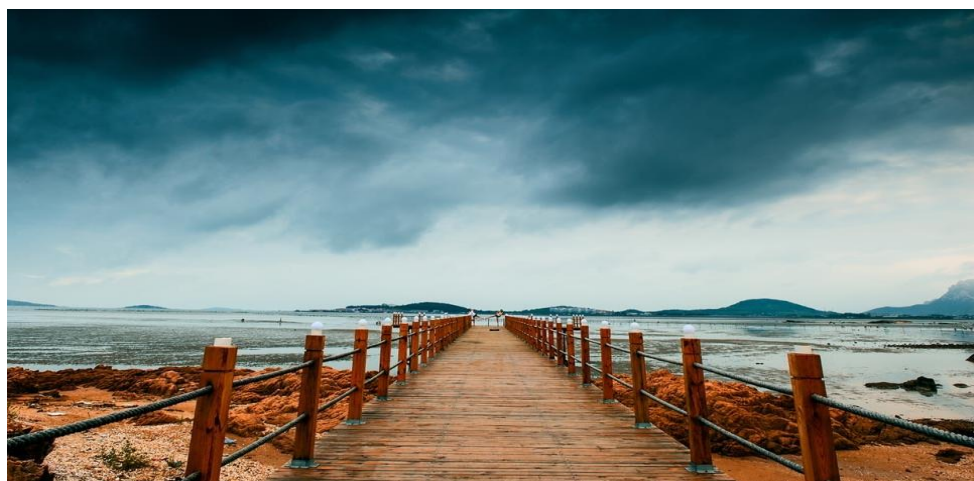


# 义人的盼望

义人的盼望必得喜乐...——箴言 10: 28

嗨，孩子们！看看这个机器。你知道它是什么吗？它可是令人兴奋的夹公仔机！嗯，我们该选哪个好呢？让我们选这个吧，我看到我想要的东西了。等我把硬币放进去……来吧……慢慢地……慢慢地……哦，我希望我夹到我想要的那个！噢，不要，这是滑下去了！别，别，别，别掉下去！我希望在把它弄出来之前能一直悬挂住……你是否曾经对某件事盼望了好久，结果却失望了？就像当你在海滩上，乌云出现在你的头顶上，你祈求又盼望：千万不要下雨啊，请不要下雨啊……



今天我们就来谈谈——盼望。当我们盼望某事时，就是希望此事会按我们所想的方式发生，比如我们想夹的玩具，或者我们想要享受的好天气。我们不能保证最后会发生什么，但我们仍然可以“盼望”！

今天的圣经故事是关于一个没有希望的人。他没有任何盼望，因为即使他知道自己想要的是什么，他也知道自己不可能得到想要的，因为这个人是个麻风病人，他得了一种叫麻风的病。在圣经当时那个年代，麻风病是无法治愈的。又由于这种病容易传染且传染得非常快，没有人敢靠近麻风病人。麻风病人不但对病情好转不抱有希望，也不敢期望能得到任何人的任何帮助——甚至对想得到自己家人或朋友的帮助都不抱有奢望。噢，感谢主！这个人的余生本来只能在无助无望中度过，但有一天他遇见了耶稣。你已经知道的，无论什么时候当你遇见耶稣，好事就会发生！



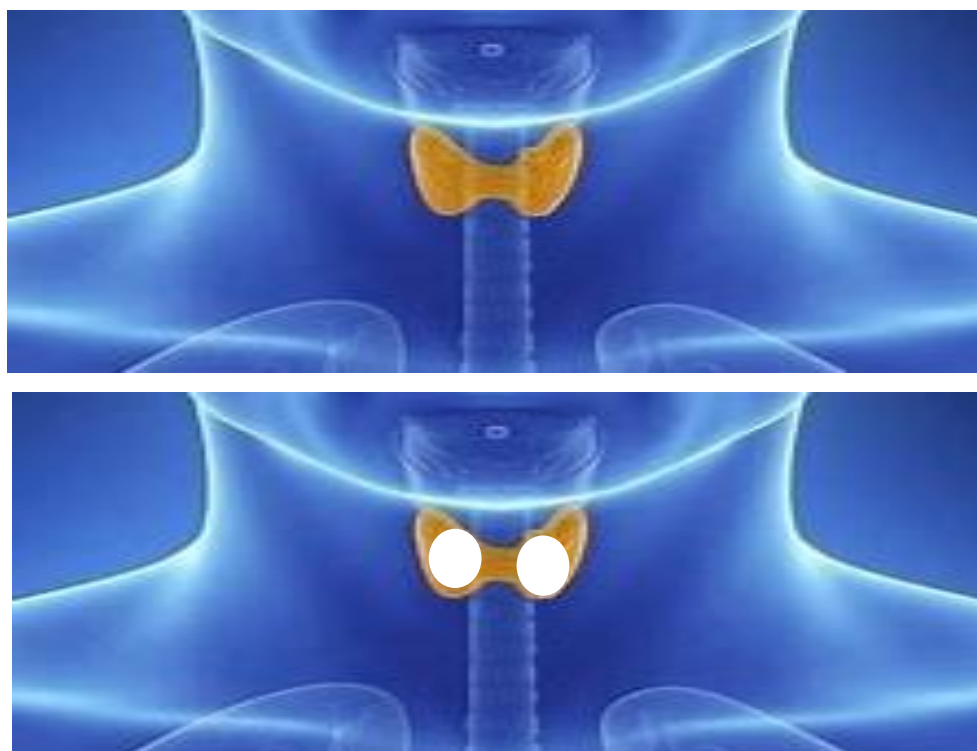
圣经在马太福音第 5 章告诉我们，耶稣和祂的门徒上山，然后祂坐下来，开始教导祂的门徒。神是多么的关心他们。耶稣教导的时候，人们开始越来越多。想想那些听着耶稣说的每一句话的人，他们都很惊讶，因为从来没有人告诉过他们关于神的好消息。然后，耶稣就起来下山，众人也跟着祂。圣经没有告诉我们，但是我们可以想象那个长大麻风的人一定也在旁边听……就在那天，这位麻风病人做了一件所有人都知道是不允许的事——他直接走向耶稣。看他是怎样说的，马太福音 8 章 2 节说：“有一个长大麻风的来拜祂，说：‘主若肯，必能叫我洁净了。’”“你可以把我洗干净。”——麻风病人想要洗澡吗？不是这样的。在当时圣经年代，“干净”或“不干净”与你洗澡或洗澡的次数无关。麻风病人是“不洁净的”，在他们“不洁净”的时间里，任何人都不许接近他们，甚至他们的家人和朋友也不行。所以，麻风病人说的是：“主啊，如果你愿意，你可以医治我，让我可以回到我的家人和朋友身边！”

每个人都知道麻风病是无法治愈的。麻风病人不可能有希望被治愈，他们也无法对他们的未来抱有什么盼望。那么，是什么让这位麻风病人如此大胆地要求耶稣去做不可能的事呢？答案是他相信耶稣能为他做这不可能的事，他知道耶稣有这个能力帮助他，翻转他的生活！但是是什么让麻风病人如此确信呢？我们目前能得到的最好的答案是：他一定是听到了关于耶稣的好消息，或许他甚至听到了耶稣对山坡上的人所说的一切。好消息是他所听到的给了他希望——终于有个人有能力帮助我了！麻风病人确信耶稣是有这个能力的，他所不敢确定的是：耶稣愿不愿这样做。“主啊，如果你愿意……”你怎么想？**耶稣愿意帮助他吗？那天，麻风病人得到了耶稣响亮而清晰的回答。耶稣伸手去触摸他，对他说：“是的，我愿意……”**但除此之外，耶稣还对麻风病人说：“我爱你！”他的大麻风立刻就洁净了。想象一下这个麻风病人——前一分钟看着他那双糟糕的、患病的手——下一分钟就看到他那已恢复了健康且强壮的手，不只是他的手，还有他的整个身体！哇！对一个如此无助和绝望的人来说，这是多么神奇的结局啊！



反观我们自己，这个故事对我们也有好消息吗？答案是肯定的！好消息是，当我们告诉我们良善的神我们所盼望的，我们不必像那个麻风病人那样说：“主啊，如果你愿意……”我们不必担心或怀疑神是否会决定去帮助我们。我们总可以信靠祂。我们可以确信，神的回答永远是“是的，我愿意！”也许现在你在想：“我怎样才能确定呢？”答案很简单，却非常有力……你准备好了吗？在麻风病人的故事里，耶稣这样回答：“我愿意……”现在，在我们的故事里，耶稣在 2000 多年前已经这样回答我们：“**看我有多爱你们！是的，我愿意，我愿意为你们舍命！**”因为耶稣，我们所有的罪都被洗去了。因为我们所有的罪都洗净了，我们就是神在基督里的义。当我们知道我们与神永远是和好的，我们对主的盼望就不会软弱或动摇，我们的盼望是充满信心和肯定的！

接下来，我来告诉你发生在一位主日学老师身上的事。当这位老师的医生告诉她一些坏消息时，她没有被吓到。这个坏消息是她的下巴长了个肿块，更可拍的是，要摘除这个肿块非常危险，一个小小的失误的动作就会让她半边脸瘫痪。一般人自然会惊慌失措地说：“哦，我的天啊！医生说了这个报告，还有这个，还有这个！”但这位老师和她的丈夫对医生所说的坏消息的反应并没有这样，相反，他们是这样说的：“我们知道医生说了这样那样的话，但圣经说我们太蒙福了所以不觉得有压力。圣经告诉我们：因祂所受的鞭伤，我们得医治！”尽管这个问题很可怕，很严重，她和她的丈夫还是继续信靠耶稣，并期盼着最好的结果。他们坚持领受圣餐。她不但没理会问题有多严重，而是说了她所盼望看到的事——“让那块疙瘩消失吧！”



安排动手术的时刻到了，医生打开了她嘴里肿块的部分。你认为他们发现了什么？什么都没有！相反，他们所预期的肿块，只是一个空洞的空间，肿块完全消失了！医生非常惊讶，他说：“我做这个手术 17 年了，从来没有见过这样的事。”更让他吃惊的是，老师和她的丈夫说：“我们一点也不惊讶，我们信赖上帝，我们知道一切都会好起来的！”

这里有一句可爱的经文要我们学习和记住，你可能也想要标记强调一下。在箴言 10:28，告诉我们“义人的盼望必得喜乐……”这节经文说，“义人的盼望是会得喜乐的。”不是也许会，而是一定会得到喜乐！你不必担心和疑惑，你可以确信祂有能力并且愿意帮助你。当祂这样为你做时，你会很开心。所以，下次你担心或疑惑某事的时候，记住你今天听到的。请记住…请记住耶稣在十字架上大声且清晰地回答我们：“是的，我愿意！看我有多爱你们！”当你记住十字架的救恩，你就可以确信，每一次你仰望主的时候，答案总是会令你欢欣鼓舞的。“义人的盼望——你和我——必得喜乐！所有孩子们一起说‘阿门’”！



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孩子们，如果你正在听这个故事，你从来没有邀请耶稣进入你的生命，成为你的主和救主，你现在可以这样做，跟着我重复这个祷告：“亲爱的主耶稣，感谢你为我死在十字架上。你是神的儿子，你死了，也被埋葬，第三天又复活了。你宝血洗去了我所有的罪，使我得以永远与阿爸天父在一起。我请求你现在进入我的生命里，成为我的主和救主，我永远是个义人，永远是有福的，永远是神的孩子。奉耶稣的名，阿门！”

## THE HOPE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

### The hope of the righteous will be gladness... —Proverbs 10:28

Hey Rock Kidz! Look at these machines. Do you know what they are? Yes, they are claw machines filled with exciting toys. Hmm, which shall we pick? Let's pick this one! Ooh, I see something I want to get! Let me put in my coins... Here we go... Slowly... slowly... Oh, I hope I get the one I want! Oh no! It's slipping! No, no, no...don't fall now! I hope it stays on till I get it out... Argh! Have you ever hoped and hoped for something, just to be disappointed? Like when you are on the beach and dark clouds appear above you... and you hope and hope it doesn't rain. Please don't let it rain!

Today we want to talk about hope. When we hope for something, it is us wishing that things will happen the way we want it. Like the toy we want to catch. Or the good weather we want to enjoy. We cannot guarantee what happens in the end, but we can still hope!

Today's Bible story is about a man with no hope. He had no hope because even though he knew what he wanted, he also knew that it was impossible for he to get what he wanted. You see, this man was a leper. This means he had a disease called leprosy. During Bible times, there was no cure for leprosy and because it could spread so easily and so quickly, no one dared to be near a leper. The leper had no hope of getting better and no hope getting any kind of help from anyone – not even from his family or his friends. Oh dear. Now, this man would have lived the rest of his life helpless and hopeless except that one day, he met Jesus. You already know that anytime you meet Jesus, something good is sure to happen!

The Bible tells us in Matthew 5 that Jesus went up a mountain side with his disciples. There he sat down and started to teach his disciples all about how much God cared for them. As Jesus talked, more and more people arrived. Imagine the people – listening to every word that Jesus said – all amazed because no one had ever told them such good news about God before! So, when Jesus got up and started to go down the mountain, the crowd followed him. The Bible doesn't tell us this but we can imagine that the leper must have been nearby listening as well... because that day, the leper did something that everyone knew was not allowed – he went right up to Jesus! And look what he said: In Matthew 8:2, it tells us: and behold, a leper came and worshipped Him, saying, "Lord, if you are willing, You can make me clean." "You can make me clean". Was the leper asking for a shower? No. During Bible times, being 'clean' or 'unclean' had nothing to do with how much you showered or bathed. Lepers were 'unclean', and for as long as they were 'unclean' no one was allowed to go near them – not even their families or friends. So, what the leper was saying was, "Lord, if you are willing, You can heal me so that I can go back home to my family and friends again."

Everyone knew there was no cure for leprosy. Lepers could not hope to be healed, and they could not hope for their future. So, what made the Leper so bold to ask Jesus to do the impossible? The answer is that the leper believed that Jesus could do the impossible for him. He knew that Jesus had the power to help him and turn his life around.

But what made the leper so sure? Well, the best answer we have is that he must have heard the good news about Jesus. Maybe he even heard everything that Jesus told the people on the mountainside. The good news is that what he heard gave him hope. At last! Here was someone with the power to help him. The leper was sure that Jesus could. What he didn't know was if Jesus would. "Lord, if you are willing..." What do you think? Was Jesus willing to help him? That day, the leper got his answer loud and clear. Jesus actually reached out to him and touched him. That touch told the leper – "Yes, I am willing..." But more than that, Jesus' told the leper – "I love you." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Imagine the leper – one minute looking at his sad diseased hands – and the next minute seeing them healthy and strong again! Not just his hands, but his whole body too. Wow! What an amazing ending for a man who was so helpless and hopeless!

But what about us? Is there good news for us as well in this story? The answer is YES. The good news is that when we tell our good, good God what we hope for, we don't have to be like the leper who said, "Lord, if you are willing..." No, we don't have to worry or wonder if the Lord will decide to help us or not. We can ALWAYS put our trust in Him. We can be sure that his answer to us is always "yes, I am willing." Maybe right now you are thinking, "How can I be sure of this?" Then answer is simple but so very powerful... Are you ready? In the leper's story, Jesus answered like this... "I am willing..." Now, in our story, Jesus answered us more than 2000 years ago like this... "see how much I love you? Yes, I am willing. So willing I give My life for you..." Because of Jesus, all our sins are washed away. Because all our sins are washed away, we are the righteousness of God in Christ. When we know that we are always right with God, our hope in the Lord is not weak or wobbly. Our hope is confident and sure.

Let me tell you what happened to a teacher from Rock Kidz who refused to be afraid when her doctor gave her some very bad news. The bad news is that there was a lump growing in her jaw. The worse news was that it was so dangerous to remove the lump that one wrong move would leave half of her face paralyzed. The natural thing would be to panic and say, "Oh no! The doctor said this, and this, and this!" But this is not what this teacher and her husband did. This is what they said instead, "We knew the doctor said this and this and this, BUT the Bible says that we are too blessed to be stressed. The Bible says "By his stripes we are healed!" Even though the problem was scary and serious, she and her husband continued to put their trust in Jesus and hoped for the best. They partook the holy communion and instead of how bad the problem was, she said what she hoped to see – "Let the lump shrivel up and disappear!"

When the time came for her operation, the doctors open up the part of her mouth where the lump was. What do you think they found? Nothing at all. Instead the lump they were expecting, there was just an empty space. The lump was totally gone! The doctor was so surprised he said, "In all my 17 years of doing this, I have never seen anything like this before. To his even bigger surprise, the teacher and her husband said, "We are not surprised. Our trust is in the Lord. We knew everything will be alright!"

Here's a lovely verse for us to learn and remember: You might want to highlight this as well. In proverbs 10:28, it tells us "The hope of the righteousness will be gladness..." This verse says, "The hope of the righteous WILL be gladness." Not maybe, but "WILL" be gladness. You don't have to worry and

wonder. You can be sure that He is able and willing to help you. And when he does, you will be GLAD! So, the next time you worry or wonder about something, remember what you heard today. Remember this... Remember how at the cross Jesus answered us loud and clear – “Yes I am willing. See how much I love you!” when you remember the cross, you can be sure each time you hope in the Lord, the answer will always be one that will make you glad! “The hope of the righteous – that’d you and me – will be gladness! And all of Rock Kidz say “Amen!”

**Hey rock Kidz, if you are listening to this story and you’ve never asked Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and Saviour, you can do so now. Just repeat this prayer after me, “Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me. You are the Son of God, who died, was buried and on the third day, you rose again. Your precious blood washed away all my sins making me forever right with Daddy God. I ask You now to come into my life to be my Lord and Saviour. I am forever righteous, forever blessed, forever a child of God. In Jesus’ name,” and everyone say, “Amen.”**