

DARE TO HOPE: Care

August 16, 2026

Message Summary.

People of hope care about those who are far from Jesus, and that care moves us to pray, make a way, carry people toward Jesus, and rejoice when they put their faith in Him. We can pick up a corner of the mat and trust Jesus to do what only He can do.

Key Scripture Summaries.

Luke 5:17-26 | Four friends overcome obstacles to bring a paralyzed man to Jesus, who forgives and heals him.

Luke 15:3-7 | The shepherd goes after the one lost sheep, revealing God's heart for people far from Him.

2 Peter 3:9 | God is patient, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance.

Luke 14:23 | God's heart is that His house would be full, so His people are sent out to invite others in.

Start Talking.

1. Who is someone who went out of their way to help you when you needed it?
2. What is the most inconvenient thing you have ever done for a friend?
3. When you hear the phrase "pick up a corner of the mat," what comes to mind?

Start Thinking.

- What do the stories of the lost sheep in Luke 15 and the great banquet in Luke 14 teach us about God's heart for people far from Him?
- What keeps us from going out of our way to help someone move toward Jesus?
- What does it mean that we can't save anybody, but we can carry somebody?

Start Sharing.

1. Which part of this week's message challenged or encouraged you the most?
2. Who is your "ONE", someone you are praying will come to know Jesus?
3. What makes carrying someone toward Jesus difficult or inconvenient for you? What might God be asking you to do anyway?

4. Have you seen God use an ordinary invite, conversation, relationship, or act of care to change someone's spiritual direction?
5. The sermon described three ways people of hope care. Which one is God pressing on you most right now?
 - Want everyone to know Jesus.
 - Make ways for people to get to Jesus.
 - Rejoice when someone follows Jesus.
6. Who have been the "mat-carriers" in your life? How did their faith, prayers, encouragement, or persistence help you?
7. What do you believe your "corner of the mat" is right now?

Start Praying.

Father, thank You for loving us enough to come after us through Jesus. Give us Your heart for people who are far from You. Bring our ONE to mind and show us our corner of the mat. Give us courage to pray, invite, speak, sacrifice, and keep carrying when it would be easier to quit. Help us faithfully carry people to Jesus and trust Him to do what only He can do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Start Doing.

- Read Luke 5:17-26 and ask God what the four friends teach you about active faith.
- Write down the name of your ONE and pray for that person every day this week.
- Ask God each day, "What's my corner of the mat?" Act on the answer He gives you.
- Take a clear step to help your ONE move toward Jesus: invite, encourage, start a conversation, or make room for them.
- Encourage one of your own "mat-carriers" by thanking them for the way they have helped you follow Jesus.
- Encourage someone who faithfully serves behind the scenes and thank them.

