

sermon study - Matthew 11:1-19 "expectations"

problem:

We are blinded by our expectations

God is not a vending machine we do not dictate what He does, and if that is our expectation we are in store for some serious disappointment.

Read the following article and discuss:

http://www.faithvillage.com/article/8d81ce56a48443a299e556441feb0999/dealing_with_the_devastation_of_expectation

- What are some unmet expectations about God you have experienced?
- What are some surpassed expectations about God you have experienced?

Main Idea:

Jesus will not satisfy your false expectations of Him.

- how has this sermon affected your view of God?
- your view of self?
- what will you do differently because you heard this message?

Text (review with a mind to taking steps of application)

Jesus did not satisfy John's false expectations (Matthew 11:1-6)

- Read 11:1-6.
 - How does this heading explain this passage?
 - What are the textual clues?
- How long had John been in prison? read Matthew 4:12 for the answer.
- Read John 1:29-34. Is it surprising to now see John doubting his earlier proclamation?
- Read Matthew 3:7-12. What was John's expectation of Jesus when He came?
- Jesus did not fit this expectation and so John doubted. Read 1 Kings 19:1-8.
 - How does Elijah's doubt parallel John's?
 - How did God comfort and correct Elijah's false expectations?
- Read 2 Peter 1:16-21. What is available to us to comfort and correct our false expectations?
- In Matthew 11:1-6 how does Jesus comfort John's unmet expectations? Read Isaiah 35:4-6; 61:1-2.
 - Read Luke 4:16-21. Jesus quotes Isaiah 61:1-2 but He leaves something out. Re-read Isaiah 61:1-2. What did He leave out?
- The point is simple: Jesus comforted and corrected John's expectations with Scripture.

John did not satisfy the crowds false expectations (Matthew 11:7-15)

- Read 11:7-15.
 - How does this heading explain this section?
 - What are the textual clues?
- Jesus says that John fits the role of Elijah.
 - Read John 1:20-25. Was John Elijah reincarnated?
 - Read Luke 17:10-13. In what sense then was John, Elijah?

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-Read Matthew 17:10-13. Jesus said that Elijah does come and that when he does he restores the people to their God. This did not happen. Jesus' real offer was rejected and so He will come back. incidentally the one like Elijah will come to precede Him seen in Revelation 11:1-14. notice that this passage speaking about Elijah coming before the end is given right after the disciples saw Moses and Elijah speaking with Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration. In Revelation 11, the two witnesses fulfill almost identical roles with identical miracles as Moses and Elijah.

-In Matthew 11:10 we see Jesus comfort and correct the crowd's false expectations of John with Scripture (Isaiah 40:3; 57:14; 62:10; Malachi 3:1-4; 4:1-6)

Jesus and John were not the problem (Matthew 11:16-19)

-Jesus compared disbelieving Israel to children, because their disbelief was so immature and childish. Referring to common children's games, which required responsiveness in participation, Jesus indicated that Israel had "refused to play" no matter what the tune. Neither John nor Jesus turned out the way Israel expected of the forerunner and the Messiah. Because of their presuppositions, Israel's response was the proverbial, "Our mind is made up; do not confuse us with the facts." Out of their hardened hearts the skeptics looked for any reason to reject John and Jesus in order to justify their disbelief. (*Holman New Testament Commentary*)

-They rejected John because he did not have enough fun (wandering in the desert) and they rejected Jesus because he had too much fun (eating with sinners). John took the hard-line approach (the funeral dirge). Jesus took the more positive approach (the inviting flute). Neither evoked response. Nothing would satisfy them. These children would not play, no matter what one might do for them. (*Holman New Testament Commentary*)

Read Jeremiah 17:5-10.

-What leads to false expectations?

Implication

Jesus comforted and corrected John with the Word. Jesus comforted and corrected the crowd with the Word, but there is no comfort or correction for an unwilling heart.

What your heart says about God is wrong. - Your heart is deceitful above all else- it is what He says in His Word that is true about Him. thus...

Application:

Our expectations must be anchored to the Word of God like a kite on a string. We must actually try to know God as He actually revealed Himself in His Word. It is not your Jesus but The Jesus that we must seek to know.

Discuss the following article and any actionable applications from this message:

<http://www.gotquestions.org/knowing-God.html>