

Great Expectations

The Power of Discipling

Chapters 11-12



**Expectation is an essential part of the
Christian life!**

Expectation is an essential part of the Christian life!

Expectation:

1. a belief that something will happen or is likely to happen
2. a feeling or belief about how successful, good, etc., someone or something will be

**IF YOU AIM
AT NOTHING
YOU WILL
HIT IT
EVERY TIME**



-Zig Ziglar



Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

⁶ And all people will see God’s salvation.””

Verses 4-6 are a prophecy from the book of Isaiah.

- Isaiah was written between 701 and 681 B.C
- John the Baptist's ministry around 29 - 30 AD
- John the Baptist's ministry was based on a prophecy given almost 730 years earlier!

“A voice of one calling in the desert, prepare
the way for the Lord”

“A voice of one calling in the desert, prepare
the way for the Lord”

**John the Baptist had amazing
expectations of how he could be
used by God!**

**How high are your expectations for
what God can do in and through
your life?**

Luke 3:7-14

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

¹¹ John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

¹³ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

**John the Baptist had high
expectations for others!**

John the Baptist had high expectations for others!

- **Expectations stretch us to become someone we are not!**

John the Baptist had high expectations for others!

- **Expectations stretch us to become someone we are not!**
- **Staying the same is not ok!**



Just a few areas of our lives that we need to have high expectations for one another:

- Quiet times / relationship with God
- Righteousness / Purity
- Evangelism
- Commitment
- Health
- Everyone in a Discipling Relationship (100%)

**Lack of expectation stems from
lack of faith!**

Titus 1:1-2

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—² in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time...

God's promises (3573):

God Has Already Given Us The Victory
Power In The Blood Of Jesus
Satan Defeated By Christ
Full Forgiveness In Jesus' Name
God Will Hear And Answer Our Cry
The Strength Of The Lord In Us
We Have Been Given Christ's Boldness
God Has Made Us Effective Witnesses

Christ Set Us Free From Sin
Healing
Every Fear Cast Out
Guidance From The Lord
Hope: The Future Is Secure
Heaven
God is Just and Acts Justly
God Answers Prayer

On a scale of 1 to 10 how excited are you about God's promises for your life and for those around you?



Luke 3:15-18

¹⁵ The people were waiting **expectantly** and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

Expectation breeds expectation!

High expectations are only
achievable through **Jesus!**

Revelation 21:21

The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

John 14:2

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?



Revelation 21:4

‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Revelation 7:15-17

¹⁵ Therefore,

“they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶ ‘Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat down on them,
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;

‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’

‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”