

## EXPECTED EXPECTATIONS

One of the issues that strain relationships is when there are unmet expectations. Sometimes expectations are beyond one's ability to meet them, sometimes expectations are there and yet they are unknown.

One of the reasons why people leave churches or work places is simply an issue of unmet expectations.

The tragedy we have is that more often than not we expect people to deliver what we ourselves cannot deliver.

There are expectations in every marriage, there are expectations when you are working in a team. Do you know that Jesus has certain expectations of you?

This morning I want to talk to you on a subject matter – EXPECTED EXPECTATIONS

*Luke 17:11 Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. 12 Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off.*

- Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem and He found Himself going through a village that was between Galilee and Samaria.
- Remember, Jesus had set His mind to go to Jerusalem, He was highly focused at getting there.
- As He was on His way, the Bible says there were ten lepers who met Him from afar – Allow me to say that Sometimes life will throw at you situations that are detached from your expectations.
- These men had a death sentence on them:
  - As lepers, they were considered unclean and therefore could not hang out with clean people.
  - Lepers were confined to the outskirts of the city – they lived on the dumpsite
  - The leprosy disease had a tendency of eating away body parts of its victim – in others words they were getting incapacitated slowly.
- I am sure these men had heard about Jesus and this was their only opportunity to experience change.
- Without wasting time, the Bible says in verse "...13 And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

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- When you are overwhelmed by the gap that exists between your reality and your expectations, you will do anything to change the status quo.

*Proverbs 23:18 For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.*

*Psalms 62:5 My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him.*

- These men did not waste time, they cried out for mercy – its funny that they did not cry out for healing.
- It was a cry of desperation, one that came from a place of humility – leprosy was a disease which God made to come upon some persons to testify His displeasure for some sin committed by them.
- The heart of Jesus is moved when you approach Him from a place of humility
  - In Luke 18:9-14, a Pharisee, obsessed by his own virtue, is contrasted with a tax collector who humbly asks God for mercy. This parable demonstrates the need to pray humbly.

*14 So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.*

- Despite His focus, He could not ignore the sight of these ten men – Jesus is never too busy for you when you call on Him.
- Jesus pays attention to His own –
- I am not sure what they expected Jesus to do – all that Jesus did was to tell them to go and show themselves to the priests.
- Sometimes the answer will come in a different way than the way we expected.
  - The children of Israel did not expect their deliver to be a stammer like Moses
  - King Saul did not expect a shepherd boy to defeat Goliath
  - Elijah did not expect to be sustained by a poor widow who only had enough for herself and her boys to eat once and die.
  - The Jewish nation did not expect a carpenter's son to be the Messiah.
- Their miracle took place whilst they were obeying the words of Jesus – there is an order to the things of God.

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- Its obedience first then the miracle. Many people are waiting for the sign in order to obey God.
- You will only experience the supernatural when you take the first step of faith
- In the process of getting their healing, one of them started considering how the healing was achieved.
- He started thinking of what that meant for his family, his business that had no one to look after and it struck his heart that he did not say thank you.
- How many lepers do I have in this place, who have been healed of their leprosy?

Sometimes life will throw at you situations that are detached from your expectations.

- He decided to go back to Jesus, the source of the healing, the one who did not have to respond to their pleas.

*15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. 17 So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? 18 "Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" 19 And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."*

- This one man teaches us how to meet an expected expectation in the heart of Jesus - Jesus expects you to be grateful when He does you good
- how a grateful heart looks like
  - He expressed his joy and appreciation by raising his voice. It is expressive
  - He fell down on his face. It is humble and has no sense of entitlement
  - The man went down to the feet of Jesus. It acknowledges the source
  - The man was a Samaritan. It is aware of its short comings, which needed the help
- It is fascinating that Jesus actually asked about the other 9 lepers
- Today, we have dedicated this time to say thank you Lord but it should not be a once a year matter.
- We need to make it a habit, a daily affair of being grateful to God and to those who do good to us.
- It is expected of you to be grateful for what God has done for you.