

Expectations

Introduction/Family Time

Examples of when your expectations were not met or totally different!

Expectations disappointed


John the Baptist

△ Mt 11:2-6

JtB disillusioned?

Is Jesus the Messiah?

Only last week we read:

▶  11 “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

△ Mt 3:11-12

And now JtB is wondering

Are you the Messiah? Or are we

waiting for someone else?

Jewish image of the Messiah

Liberator from slavery of the Romans

To make Israel great again!

The times of the Kingdom under King David!

A land flowing with Milk and Honey

With God at the centre, and all oppressors defeated

A King who comes on a horse for war, not one who comes on a donkey for peace

Where is your winnowing fork, Jesus?

Where is your threshing floor?

Why are the oppressors not burning in an unquenchable fire?

But this is not what Jesus did

Jesus healed and raised people from the dead

He gave good news to the poor

And he wants people to not take offence

This is his ministry, and everyone accepting this will be blessed

^ v6

But perhaps those who expected a

But perhaps those who expected a different Messiah are not blessed?

The Crowds

△ Mt 11:7-11

Jesus then challenges the crowds

What did they expect when they went to see JtB

Did you not expect a prophet?

or did you go down as a tourist looking at the nature or the rich people living there

Neither did they expect the Kingdom of God to come in their time

And here He is

In that way JtB is the greatest prophet

But still the least in the KoG....

Readers of Isaiah

△ Isa 35:1-10

The way

This Poem of Isaiah

Sits almost in isolation in the book

Looking forward from people to return from exile

But which exile?

Isaiah 1-40 focusses on the people in Israel and surrounding countries to repent

but they did not listen, hence

Isaiah 40 onwards focuses on the Jews exiled in Babylon and the promised return

This passage seems to point further out

Not only to the people in the time of Israel before or during the exile

But also after they have returned

As the desert is still desert - where JtB preached

Not the desert in bloom as in vs 1-2

It talks about strengthening weak hands and feeble knees

those who are fearful

those who desire justice

It talks about the blind, deaf, lame dumb being healed

A transformation of nature into paradise

A highway / Holy Way for people to return

Only God's people

Return where - Israel, Jerusalem?

To what is supposed to be not what it is

The ransomed and redeemed shall return

Small return

Those whose debts have been settled

Whose slavery has been purchased

Does that not point to Jesus on the cross?

Is this what Jesus said to JtB

This is the Messiah

Who does not come to change a political situation

But who would redeem and ransom all of us

From the slavery of sin and death

But have readers expected this outcome?

The Jews are still waiting for the Messiah

This who sing Jerusalem want this to happen in Britain

But Jesus wants our hearts

And has died to redeem and ransom for our freedom

So we can say yes to him!

What are our expectations?

What did you expect when

What did you expect when
you came to church this
morning

Lovely singing and fellowship

Maybe my talk, preparing us
for Christmas, the light in the
darkness of the winter?

Is that what you expect from
Jesus?

Someone to help you in the
difficult days of living and
make everything new

Without us needing to change?

James also had to change
expectations

△ James 5:7-10


of his readers

be patient!

Strengthen your hearts!

Did we also not hear that
Isiah?

Hebrews 12:12-13 as well!

 Therefore, strengthen your
feeble arms and weak
knees. "Make level paths for

your feet, so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

Be patient and guard yourself

It may get worse than better!

Why?

because are our expectations right?

Are we really wanting Jesus to be Santa Klaus and give us the gifts from under the Christmas tree?

Because he loves us?

And therefore he wants to do everything for us

Yes, he loves us!

But he wants things for us that he knows help us!

Jesus expectations:
Healing

The lame, the blind, the deaf and the dumb

Physically - and mentally and spirituality

Are we not as Christians like
the lame, the blind the deaf
and the dumb

Are we equipped to be
workers in God's kingdom?

Or are we truly broken and
hurting people who have
sinned and who have been
sinned against?

Are we therefore still not
suffering as slaves of sin and
death - even though he has
already freed us!

But do we not like to hide
our broken walls under a
fresh layer of whitewash?

All is honky-dory

But Jesus knows it is not!

His expectation of us is that
we face our hurt, pain and sin

And bring it to him!

So he can heal us....

So he can redeem us

So he can repurchase us

So he can repay us

Those who believe and those
who don't

We often even fool ourselves

I am free in Jesus!

But why do are not behave as if I
was freed

Still bound to the desires of this
world

Did you expect Jesus to
heal and change you
when you came in this
morning?

He is here

But maybe we do not like
our expectations to be
challenged

Maybe we do not like to
change

fear, doubt, uncertainty

why fix it if it is not broken

But your lives could be so
mych better!

Come to me all who are

Come to me all who are
weary and heavy laden

And I will give you rest

Ask him what he would like
to change in you!

Song: Come to me
