

A Prison of Great Expectation - Luke 7:18-23 ESV

18 The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, 19 calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" 20 And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" 21 In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. 22 And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. 23 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

Also found in Matt. 11:2-19 (Only difference is v21)

Title - A Prison of Great Expectation

Friday - Cow head **illustration** (Be quick)

Expectation in everyday life (work, school, marriage, relationships)

Expectation in christianity (faith, future and present)

John's great expectation

[Isaiah 40:3-5 ESV](#) (Luke 3:4)

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord ; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

John was filled with Holy spirit while still in Elizabeth's womb - Luke 1:41

He must increase, but I must decrease." - John 3:30 ESV

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29 ESV

v18 "The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, 19 calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?"

2 Questions

Q1. What changed? What happened? Life happened. The circumstance and situation changed, as does often happen in life.

John was now in prison.

John 3:24 ESV "(for John had not yet been put in prison)"

Do u remember a time when u had/were not yet?

Q2. What things were reported to him? Jesus entertaining tax collectors, prostitutes & gentiles? Jesus talking about loving your enemies & not judging others?

Some things probably made sense, others definitely didn't. Probably because John was looking for something specific.

John was never PC. If he had a twitter account it would probably have been shut down.

Once called Sadducees and Pharisees a "brood of vipers"

John's expectation

Matt 3:11 ESV

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Huge discrepancy between the reports he heard and what he expected. Where was the fork? Where was the fire?

WTF Jesus?! You ever have a WTF Jesus moment?

Once again you are in the company of greatness

The great thing that John did here was he brought his expectations, his doubt and his disappointment to Jesus.

Jesus' Response

v20 And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" 21 In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight.

Jesus **did not answer them immediately**. He decided to show them 1st.

You ever seek God in prayer and **feel like He's not answering?** Maybe, He wants you to see something 1st.

Exodus 14:13 NKJV

"And **Moses** said to the people, "Do not be afraid. **Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord**, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever."

There is a dimension or **perspective that is added when we see** as well as hear.

Are we seeing God's power in our lives? A lot of people want this. They want to see the power and the glory manifest in their lives.

The **power of God is in the presence** of God!

Is God present in our everyday life. Do we live every waking moment aware of His presence in our lives. When we are here **worshipping and praying together** is He here? When we are **driving** is He actually seated next to you? When you are chatting with that very attractive work colleague even though u are married is He present? When u are **alone**

do u see the Holy Spirit there with you? Are we experiencing God and His presence daily?

Mark 3:15 ESV - being with Jesus

"And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might **be with him** and he might send them out to **preach** and have **authority** to cast out demons."

v22 And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have **seen and heard**: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.

What did they see? Many healed of disease, plagues, evil spirits & the blind restored their sight, the dead raised to life.

What did they hear? Many healed of disease, plagues, sight restored dead raised, & the poor (including themselves) hearing the good news.

Jesus was **fulfilling prophecy not preference**

Isaiah 35:4-6 ESV

4 "Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." 5 **Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then shall the lame man leap like**

a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;"

Jesus was **living up to His word not our will**. What He expressed He would do, not what we expected He would do.

God **isn't about meeting** our expectations but is **about exceeding** them!

Ephesians 3:20 ESV

"Now to him who is **able to do far more abundantly** than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us"

His thoughts are not our thoughts. His ways are higher than ours.

We need to set our expectations **on the basis of who God is** and who He says He is.

v22b **the poor have good news preached to them.**

The Good News = **The Gospel**

The **life, death & resurrection** of Jesus Christ

The Gospel **gives hope for eternity** before The Judgement to come

The accepting of the Gospel meant all the things mentioned prior (healing of disease, plagues, sight restored & dead raised) also **and more importantly** **occurred spiritually which is the true essence of The Gospel**

v23 **And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."**

Both a **rebuke and an encouragement**

Don't be imprisoned by this! It's bigger than just you!

You can't solve your problems on the level of self.

While it is good to be open and be able to approach God with our doubts we should not make this a pattern.

Jesus had every right be offended by us and our sin against Him but He isn't. That's why He is so blessed and He wants us to be just like Him. In not being offended over Him (or anybody else) we become just like Him. We become holy as He is holy.

We need to trust God. God does not need our trust. It's not for God's good but for our benefit.

Offence isn't given, it's taken. Jesus is offering grace yet we can't accept it. Jesus isn't even giving offence yet we are so quick to grab for it! 🤔

This is about Jesus and His Gospel. Not about us.

As long as I am a prisoner of what I thought God was going to do, it becomes difficult to see what he is currently doing. If I cannot see what He is doing, I cannot be a part of it.

When u let go of what you thought it was going to be you can finally embrace what it is.

Offence

- Offence is completely unproductive. In fact it robs you of the fruit of God's Holy Spirit in your life.
- The closer the relationship the greater the opportunity (...for both relationship and for offence!)

God's mercies being new every morning speaks the greatness of His mercies and grace over our sin rather than giving us an excuse to sin daily.

- Jesus is saying you may have stumbled over this, but I want to encourage u not to continue stumbling over this. There is a blessing past this.
- Doubt when undealt with, becomes offence. When we linger in doubt for so long we become resentful of God. Sometimes without even realising it. This is how we can come to stop believing in certain things God has said in His Word.

John's Question

- Just as John was asking for proof from Jesus concerning His Messiahship, the world may similarly ask for proof from us concerning Jesus' presence in us. The evidence we need to show them is in deed as much as verbally. - Are you really a child of God. Are u really a follower

of Christ? Do you really have The Holy Spirit in you? A simple "yes" left at that doesn't seem to all that convincing it does it? 🤔🤔♂🤔

Jesus' Response

- It has been stated earlier on in this series (by Shingai) that Jesus is able to heal both immediately and completely. How Jesus responds to John's question is evidence of this truth
- Jesus wanted His Messiahship to be irrefutable in their hearts and minds through a 1st hand encounter and experience, witnessing His mercy, grace, love and power at work
- A good sermon is one you can see AND hear

Extras

- Its not a plan that secures our eternity in Heaven, it's a man!
- When we acknowledge God and become more aware of His presence (& therefore goodness) in our lives we can only but respond with praise and Thanksgiving instead of complaining & feeling offended
- John's situation did not change at the end of the story.

OT expectation of the messiah

1. They expected a kingdom

- Gen 49:10, Psalm 2:6-7, Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 2, Psalm 110:1,

- A kingdom which is victorious

2. They expected salvation

- Isaiah 53

3. They expected victory

- OT paints a victorious picture of the Messiah

John the Baptist

Luke 3:4-6

Isaiah 40:3

Malachi 3:1

Malachi 4

Ultimately it is ALL about Jesus and His father's mission. Relationship and intimacy with Him is vital and important but we need to work on that WHILE going with Him. We CANNOT get stuck here! (Phrase this better!) It CANNOT be just about me and Jesus! Cannot be just about my expectations and what I want or need. It is ultimately about Christ and His mission which He has chosen to partner with us in.

1Cor.12:9 - knowing in part

Messianic Prophecies

- Isaiah 29, 35, 61

What is doubt? Is doubting God a sin? How is it different to unbelief?

- Unbelief is a complete and total rejection of Christ and His word. Doubt is the desperate need for understanding and assurance from Christ and His word. It is not a good place to remain and be trapped in. It is however a necessary experience. When addressed by God, out of it comes faith and growth.