

EXPECTATIONS

A hand is shown in the bottom right corner, holding a piece of white chalk and drawing a horizontal line underneath the word 'EXPECTATIONS' which is written in white chalk on a dark brown chalkboard. The word is written in a slightly irregular, hand-drawn font.

MATTHEW
2:19-23

Expectation = a strong belief that something will happen or be the case in the future

- About to be married expectations
 - Unrealistic - Happy couples continue to feel the same intense feelings of love
 - Unrealistic - Happy relationships remain the same
 - Unrealistic - Partners are responsible for each other's happiness

Expectation = a strong belief that something will happen or be the case in the future

- Expectations can be powerful in our lives moving us in a certain direction
 - We can have a sense of disappointment or loss when that expectation is not met
- Others have low expectations thus we are never disappointed when things don't work out

Expectation

- During the time of the birth of Jesus there was a great expectation that God would send His Messiah-King soon
 - Not just in Israel but over the entire middle east

So, what kind of Messiah-King were they expecting?

- Powerful warrior like David
- Come from a wealthy powerful family like Solomon
- To be a charismatic political leader with status in the community like Samuel
- To re-establish his throne in Jerusalem and drive all of Israel's foes into the backcountry of Assyria and Babylon

So, what kind of Messiah-King were they expecting?

- However, there are already clues in the birth story of Jesus that suggest Jesus will execute his kingship in a way that doesn't quite line up with the popular Jewish newspaper headlines of the day
- The question for us today is, "What sort of Messiah-King are you looking for to be your Savior?"

Matthew 2:19-23 NIV

- 19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

Matthew 2:19-23 NIV

- 21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, 23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

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As you think of these verses, I want you to lay them beside Israel in Egypt

- It is almost like Jesus was living the Exodus again and doing it correctly the way God intended
 - Both were called to Egypt
 - Both were called out of Egypt after outliving their persecutor
 - Both would lead their people to salvation

As you think of these verses, I want you to lay them beside Israel in Egypt

- It is almost like Jesus was living the Exodus again and doing it correctly the way God intended
 - Both were called to a specific place
 - Both were called to trust God completely

We see Joseph and Mary living their lives with divine guidance, but also common sense

- We see Joseph being obedient to God's leadership quickly
- Other than a few instances of divine guidance, Joseph and Mary were just like us in raising Jesus
- Their lives woven into a marvelous plan they could only catch glimpses of

We see Joseph and Mary living their lives with divine guidance, but also common sense

- Protecting and providing for their family
- Probably questioning some of their decisions like staying in Nazareth or many other things related to Jesus' upbringing

We see Joseph and Mary living their lives with divine guidance, but also common sense

- We see Jesus is not going to be the Messiah-King that people think He should be
- He is not interested in the status quo... the existing state of affairs, especially regarding social or political issues

We see Joseph and Mary living their lives with divine guidance, but also common sense

- He is interested in the broken, lost, hopeless, sinful people and providing them a way to be reconciled to their loving Heavenly Father

Jesus, the royal son of David who was born in the city of David is also the Jesus of Nazareth

- We would tend to think that the Messiah-King would need be living in Jerusalem, the center of all things Jewish
- He would need to be connected, known, taught the ways of power and nuances of politics

Jesus, the royal son of David who was born in the city of David is also the Jesus of Nazareth

- Not Jerusalem, not Bethlehem or any of the other major Jewish cities, but a common, almost vulgar place called Nazareth
 - Nazareth was humanly insignificant, but divinely significant

Jesus, the royal son of David who was born in the city of David is also the Jesus of Nazareth

- **John 1:45-46 NIV** 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote— Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” 46 “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip.

Jesus, the royal son of David who was born in the city of David is also the Jesus of Nazareth

- Nazareth had a dubious reputation at best
- Our Lord grew up in Nazareth and was identified with that city
- His enemies thought he was born there

Jesus, the royal son of David who was born in the city of David is also the Jesus of Nazareth

- **John 7:50-52 NIV** 50 Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, 51 “Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?” 52 They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.”

Jesus, the royal son of David who was born in the city of David is also the Jesus of Nazareth

- By the time Matthew wrote his account the word Nazarene had become a household adjective describing anything despised and scorned
- It was an insult to be called a Nazarene
- It really doesn't matter where you start from in life, but what God does in your life and where God takes you that matters

There is no such thing as wasted time in the life of Jesus, nor His followers

- We have a hard time remembering that Jesus was human like us in every way, yet without a sinful nature

There is no such thing as wasted time in the life of Jesus, nor His followers

- **Philippians 2:6-8 NIV** 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing (*in comparison to what He was*) by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

There is no such thing as wasted time in the life of Jesus, nor His followers

- **John 1:14 NIV** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

There is no such thing as wasted time in the life of Jesus, nor His followers

- **Luke 2:51-52 NIV** 51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

There is no such thing as wasted time in the life of Jesus, nor His followers

- In Nazareth Jesus was safe from the pull of religion and the eyes of the powerful
- He grew up with strong convictions, keeping himself from giving into the temptations that surrounded him
- He learned in this setting to understand and have compassion on the sick and sinful people around Him

There is no such thing as wasted time in the life of Jesus, nor His followers

- His ability touch and dine with outcasts did not develop overnight
- He was able to relate to those being abused and struggled with sin
- It was in Nazareth where the ministry of Jesus took root and shaped His human experience

There is no such thing as wasted time in the life of Jesus, nor His followers

- God often uses the despised things of the world to accomplish his purposes
- **1st Corinthians 1:27 NIV** 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

There is no such thing as wasted time in the life of Jesus, nor His followers

- We at times spend so much energy trying to get out we never learn what or why God has placed us there or allowed it to happen

Jesus begins to live out His life as a Nazarene

- **Vs. 23 NIV** So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.
- Matthew does something a little different here in this text
- Rather than quoting Isaiah or Jeremiah or one of the other prophets he gives us a theme that most all the prophets gave us in their writings

Jesus begins to live out His life as a Nazarene

- **Vs. 23 NIV** So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.
 - Notice the word prophets – not one but plural or multiple
 - Matthew is using a repeated theme found in the OT prophets in general

Jesus begins to live out His life as a Nazarene

- The theme is Jesus the Messiah-King is humble and lowly in nature
 - He doesn't spring from wealth or power or fame
 - He is not the Son of a celebrity or famous

Jesus begins to live out His life as a Nazarene

- **Isaiah 53:3 NIV** He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.
- **Matthew 11:29 NIV** 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle (lowly) and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Jesus begins to live out His life as a Nazarene

- He was despised and rejected
- He was gentle and humble (lowly)
- **John 1:11 NIV** 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.
- This was a far cry from the glory that enveloped Jesus in heaven

Jesus begins to live out His life as a Nazarene

- We must never forget - in spite of His human experience
 - In spite of His lowly, humble, meek nature
 - In spite of His eternal grace, mercy and love
 - Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords who will one day rule as the Messiah-King should

The Jewish nation missed and dismissed their Messiah-King because He was not what they expected or wanted

- So, I asked the question earlier, “What sort of Messiah-King are you looking for to be your Savior?”
- What are your expectations of or about Him?
 - To get you out of your bad decisions?
 - To answer every one of your prayers as you want Him to?

The Jewish nation missed and dismissed their Messiah-King because He was not what they expected or wanted

- What are your expectations of or about Him?
 - Love you so much He would never bring discipline down on you or keep you in a hard place?
 - To come blasting into your life with miracles?

The Jewish nation missed and dismissed their Messiah-King because He was not what they expected or wanted

- As I meditated on this question, there was one answer that became mine
 - I expect Jesus to keep every promise He has made to me in His own way and in His own time
 - I expect Him to be true to His revealed word

The Jewish nation missed and dismissed their Messiah-King because He was not what they expected or wanted

- **2nd Corinthians 1:20 NLT** 20 For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!"
 - **ESV** For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.
 - **MSG** Whatever God has promised gets stamped with the Yes of Jesus.

The Jewish nation missed and dismissed their Messiah-King because He was not what they expected or wanted

- Now that is an expectation that I think pleases the Master and brings peace, joy hope and strength to our earthly lives
- But there is one more expectation question to ask this morning

What are God's expectations of or for you?

- Expectations cut both ways
- **Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell among you richly
 - God expects us to accept His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as our Savior
 - He expects us to give our lives to Him, and in so doing, develop the character of Christ
 - God expects us to become more like Christ

What are God's expectations of or for you?

- **Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell among you richly
 - In other words, throw open the doors, roll out the red carpet and give it a grand reception. If you'll let the word dwell in you in this way, it will produce an amazing amount of spiritual wealth in your life that will lead us to be more like Him."

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