

Jesus Upsets Your Expectations

John 7:37-52

- I. Intro → I had a map of how I thought my life would go
 - A. As a teenager... Jesus upset that plan when he saved my soul
 - B. As a college student majoring in Literature, Jesus upset that plan when he called me into ministry
 - C. As a seminary student when people told me I would be the next big thing... Jesus upset that plan when he decided to humble me through suffering...
 - D. As a missionary who was supposed to be in Spain, Jesus upset that apple cart
 - E. *Proverbs 19:21, Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.*
 - F. What is the purpose of the Lord?
 1. To glorify his name over all the earth
 2. To make me (you too as a follower of Jesus) into the image of his Son
 - G. Through all the upsets of life, God will bring about his divine, sovereign purposes.
- II. John 7:37–52
 - A. *[37] On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. [38] Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” [39] Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*
 1. Recap last week - Jesus is the well of salvation that overflows
 - B. *[40] When they heard these words, some of the people said, “This really is the Prophet.” [41] Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Is the Christ to come from Galilee? [42] Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?” [43] So there was a division among the people over him. [44] Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.*
 1. **Is Jesus the Prophet?** Deuteronomy 18:15–18 → [15] *“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—[16] just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ [17] And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. [18] I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.*
 - a) Prophet like Moses: speaks to the people, mediates people the people and a holy God
 - b) Was Jesus the Prophet? Yes, but not as expected

(1) Spoke the very words of the Father... but they didn't want to listen to him

(a) Why not? He didn't say what they THOUGHT he should say or expected him to say

(b) Why not? He wasn't in their corner as Pharisees and certainly they stand on the shoulders of Moses, right?

c) Jesus didn't fit their preconceived expectations, so they missed him.

2. **Is Jesus the Christ?** The idea of Christ is found in the Ancient Greek version of the book of Daniel as well as deuterocanonical books

a) The term "Christ" (Χριστός, translit. Christós) is the Greek translation of the Hebrew *maschiach* (Messiah)

b) *Daniel 9:24–27, [24] “Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. [25] Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an **anointed one**, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. [26] And after the sixty-two weeks, an **anointed one** shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. [27] And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”*

c) Glad that's cleared up.

d) Anointed One, Messiah in Hebrew, is Christos in Greek.

e) So they are asking, “Is Jesus the one prophesied about in the book of Daniel?”

f) Well, yes, but not as they expected.

(1) They expected a conquering warrior - defeating Rome → Jesus came to defeat sin and death

(2) They expected a King w/ a sword in his fist like David → Jesus came humble like a shepherd (David as a teen)

(3) Ironically, Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but they had no idea. Maybe they thought he'd be born somewhere fancy - not in a stable.

g) People were divided. Could he be the Prophet or the Christ? He can't be both, right? Maybe he's none. But they all knew something was different about him.

h) Jesus didn't fit their preconceived expectations, so they missed him.

C. [45] The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" [46] The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!" [47] The Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived? [48] Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? [49] But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." [50] Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, [51] "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" [52] They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."

1. Temple Guard came back without Jesus. Why? They knew something was different and it gave them pause, but the Pharisees "know better"
2. They knew better...
 - a) They knew the Torah...
 - b) They knew Moses...
 - c) They knew the Prophets...
 - d) They were learned (had degrees)...
 - e) They were recognized (had positions of power)...
 - f) They were influential (people turned to them for advice)...
3. They knew better, but they didn't see Jesus. They missed him. "Are any of US being deceived?! You are going to listen to uneducated crowds?"
4. They go as far as saying that everyone else is cursed!
 - a) They set their learning, studies, power, recognition as their God. They made their expectations their god. Then, they tossed Jesus to the side.
5. Once someone makes their expectation their god, any disagreement is seen as a direct and personal attack. Look what happened to Nicodemus THE TEACHER of the Law of Israel.
 - a) How quickly they turn on their own
6. **Jesus didn't fit their preconceived expectations, so they missed him.**

III. Conclusion

A. Idolatry comes in many forms, but it is anything that we worship in place of God

1. For the Pharisees, it was an idea. An idea of: How to be close to God, What godly leadership looked like, what it valued, where it would come from, how leaders were formed, What the future Messiah would look like
 - a) Jesus was a threat against these ideas since the ideas had become their god (replacing the one true God).
2. Whenever an idol is threatened, the idol worshipper lashes out at others

- a) The Pharisees lashed out at Jesus; they lashed out at the crowds; they lashed out at the officers; they lashed out at one of their own as soon as he asked a simple question
- 3. We do the same thing.
 - a) We have plans for our future...
 - (1) You have a picture you've sketched out in your mind (whether you realize it or not). It normally looks healthy, financially stable, happy, maybe the perfect level of excitement and relaxation, successful kids, etc
 - (2) When that plan is threatened, by anyone, what do we do? Lash out. It's not wrong to have hopes and dreams, but they can easily become idols.
 - b) We have plans for our kids...
 - (1) Plans for college, jobs, grandbabies, future spouse
 - c) We have plans for how God will use us... typically, on my terms
- 4. Nobody plans for tragedy. Nobody hopes for suffering. Nobody looks forward toward suffering. We have expectations, and it is easy to make those expectations, plans, and dreams our God.
 - a) When those expectations are threatened, if we cling to tightly, we begin to lash out at others, even at God

B. Don't cling so tightly to your expectations that you miss Jesus in the process.

- 1. Why? You aren't God, you can't make your life unfold as planned
- 2. You have no capacity to actually protect yourself, your kids, family
- 3. You can't control your health, your job, the economy, other nations
- 4. You have no control to actually make things happen.
- 5. Live life with open hands

C. The solution to all this? Live your life for Jesus, not to see your own expectations come to fruition.

- 1. Free counsel: Jesus WILL upset your apple cart
- 2. Back in March, we signed a blank piece of paper
 - a) A few months later we caught Emma signing it as well
- 3. Let me tell you something funny about this, it's never blank
 - a) We act like it's blank, but God keeps showing us how we still have some things penned on there
 - b) And every time they feel threatened, I get my back up

4. The life of a Christ follower is one moment of surrender after another.

- 5. Surrender to Jesus. Let your expectations get upset. He has better plans, more glorious plans, more God-exalting plans.
- 6. Don't cling so tightly to your expectations that you miss Jesus in the process.**