

Expectancy Living

The Gospel According to Luke, Message #6, Luke 4:30-44

INTRODUCTION

It has been said that “expectations are premeditated resentments” (as cited in Johnson, 2018). Think about your expectations and how they, sometimes, measure up to reality.

Ever ordered a steak in a restaurant as medium-rare, and it gets served to you well done?

Ever ask your teen in the morning to do the dishes and come home from work to find they are not done?

Ever go to drive somewhere, and it takes you twice as long because of construction?

Ever do tons of exercise and get on the scale two weeks later to find the numbers haven't budged?

Ever go to your doctor for a routine checkup and leave with a surgery date in hand?

Unmet expectations can lead to anger, resentment, and bitterness - including when God does not meet our expectations.

He doesn't heal our loved one the way we wanted Him to when we wanted Him to.

He doesn't protect and preserve our relationship with our spouse or friend as we expected He would.

He doesn't provide for us the way that we thought He would.

My life hasn't turned out as I thought He would make it turn out.

In a blog titled *Expectation V. Expectancy*, Laurie Coombs writes about the process and products of expectation and expectancy. She posits, “Expectation expects things. It expects a certain outcome. Or that the outcome will be derived a certain way. Expectancy does not expect things. Expectancy hopes. It has faith that good will come but releases the expectation of what or how it will happen. Expectations lead to disappointments and frustration, and disillusion. Expectancy leads to faith, joy, and thankfulness” (Coombs, 2015).

Would you open your Bible to Luke chapter 4? After He departed from Nazareth because the people turned Him away when He presented Himself to them, Jesus came to Capernaum, where He established His ministry base and began ministering there.

Follow along as I read Luke 4:30-44.

BIBLE

“But he passing through the midst of them went his way, and came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power. And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice, saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not. And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out. And the fame of him went out into every place of the country round about. And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her. And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them. Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ. And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them. And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent. And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee.”

Luke 4:30-44 KJV

<https://bible.com/bible/1/luk.4.30-44.KJV>

INTRODUCTION

This passage describes various ways that Jesus worked in Capernaum. He preached the Word with power and authority and performed miracles that showed His authority over demons and diseases. While the people of Nazareth responded by turning Him away, the people of Capernaum begged Him to stay.

I see in this text a prompt to expectancy living—expectancy living as described by Laurie Coombs. “Expectancy hopes. It has faith that good will come but releases the expectation of what or how it will come about” (Coombs, 2015).

As we consider Luke 4:30-44, let’s examine why we should live with expectancy.

1. THE POWER OF GOD’S WORD LEADS US TO LIVE WITH EXPECTANCY (VV. 32, 35-36, & 39).

EXPLANATION

What was Jesus’s effect on the people of Capernaum? “They were astonished.” This compound word means to strike with astonishment. Of thirteen uses in the New Testament, it appears twelve times directly connected with Jesus’s ministry in the Gospels and one time indirectly connected with Jesus’s ministry in Acts.

Throughout this context, what astonished and amazed the people of Capernaum? “His word was with power” (v. 32), “What a word is this! For with authority and power he commandeth” (v. 36), and “Jesus rebuked” the demon (v. 35), and Jesus “rebuked the fever” (v. 39).

What was the connection? His word. His word had “power” (v. 32) and “authority” (v. 36). These translate the same word, *exousia*, which identifies the right or authority to rule.

ILLUSTRATION

My children sometimes try to express authority over their siblings, often to no avail. At those times, you may hear one of them retort, “I don’t have to do what you say because you aren’t mom or you aren’t dad.” Maybe it will be that “you aren’t my boss.”

What do they mean?

They mean the sibling who tried to take authority isn’t the authority.

However, it’s different when mom or dad gives a command or makes a request. Isn’t it?

Why?

Because of the authority or power that we have as mom and dad.

APPLICATION

Do you remember the promise and command of Jesus before He ascended?

BIBLE

'And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.'

Matthew 28:18-20

<https://my.bible.com/bible/1/MAT.28.18-20>

APPLICATION

The “power” given to Jesus compels our commission to share Christ with our community and world. It was the power of His word that astonished the people.

EXPLANATION

Then, “power” (v. 36) translates the word *dunamis*. It means force, but God’s word identifies divine, supernatural, miraculous power. It’s God’s power made available to His people so they can do His work in His authority.

APPLICATION

Jesus, by His Word, made His authority and power apparent. That astonished the people. That won people.

God’s Word, proclaimed in His authority and power, converts and transforms people’s lives.

Do we have that expectancy?

Do you live with the expectancy that God’s Word can convert, transform, and heal you? Do you go to God’s Word daily with the expectancy that He will do something for you, in you, and through you by the power and authority of His Word? Do you come to church with an expectancy that God will do something good in your life because His Word is proclaimed? Have you come here today with that expectancy? What would it look like if we had that expectancy in our lives?

What about others? Do we truly live with the expectancy that God’s Word proclaimed will convert and transform others? How would our lives be different if we had that expectancy? Would we be more faithful in sharing His Word with others? Would we be

more consistently inviting others to come, not just to special events, but to an average Sunday at church where we know God's Word will be shared?

Live with expectancy because of the power of God's Word! Expectancy, not expectation. We can believe that God's Word, because of its inherent authority and power, will accomplish good when we read it, when we proclaim it when we hear it proclaimed. You can leave church today praising God for what He did, even if you do not see a specific or apparent fruit, because God's Word will do good.

2. THE PERFORMANCE OF GOD'S WORK LEADS US TO LIVE WITH EXPECTANCY (VV. 33-41).

EXPLANATION

The power of God's Word leads us to live with expectancy, as does the performance of God's work.

What do we see packed into nine verses in Luke 4? Jesus commands and casts demons out of a man in the synagogue, commands and casts a fever out of Simon's mother-in-law (I guess Simon must have liked her), and laid His hands on and healed EVERY person with EVERY manner of disease who came to Him.

ILLUSTRATION

I do not know if you have watched season three of *The Chosen*, but throughout the last three to four episodes, there is a running theme of shock and awe among the disciples. They see Jesus do a work and are ecstatic, but then face another problem and fret. When Jesus does a work, they are amazed and wonder why they are continually surprised when they see Jesus do such mighty things repeatedly.

In episode 8, they see Jesus multiply five loaves and two fishes to feed thousands of people. Jesus sends them off on a boat to cross the sea, a storm comes up, and Jesus comes to them walking on water. In the depiction in this episode, one of the disciple characters cries out in the middle of all of this, "Why is this only the second most incredible thing I have seen today?"

APPLICATION

How often am I like the disciples? We have seen God's work, but rather than living with expectancy, we continue to question, doubt, and fear. Perhaps we have a heart problem. When the disciples did not connect Jesus's past work with their present problem, Mark wrote that the reason was this.

BIBLE

'And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered. For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.'

Mark 6:51-52

<https://my.bible.com/bible/1/MRK.6.51-52>

APPLICATION

Could the seeming lack of God's work being done for, in, and through us be a failure to connect what God has done in the past with our expectancy? Could we struggle with our present problem because we do not consider Jesus's past work and connect the two?

Throughout the Bible, we see a God of power Who works for, in, and through His people. He never slumbers or sleeps. His ears are always open to their cry. He desires to show Himself strong on behalf of those who seek Him.

Is that how we are actively viewing God? Are we living with the expectancy that God will work for, in, and through us today because of how He has worked in the past? How would our lives change if we did?

Live with expectancy because of the performance of God's work. Let what God has done in the past connect with your present context and future hope. Live with expectancy that God's work in the past provides faith that He will work now. We can, in this day and place, see miracles. We can, in this day and place, see God deliver. We can, in this day and place, see God provide. We can, in this day and place, see God save.

3. THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S WILL LEADS US TO LIVE WITH EXPECTANCY (VV. 42-44).

EXPLANATION

The people of Capernaum tried to keep Jesus with them, but He had other plans. He said that He "must" go and preach in other places.

Why must He?

What controlled Jesus?

The will of His Father always moved Jesus. The will of His Father was the only prompting of His purpose. He came because His Father willed it. He worked as His Father willed it. He moved as His Father willed it. Everything was the result of His Father's will.

APPLICATION

How does this lead me to live with expectancy?

Because when I love and follow God, everything works together for good (see Rom. 8:28).

Because when I love and follow God, His will is best for me (see Rom. 12:1).

Because when I love and follow God, I understand His will brings hope (see 2 Pet. 3:9).

How would your life be different if you lived with the expectancy of knowing God's will has a purpose? How would it affect your outlook, your perspective, and your living?

Live with expectancy because of the purpose of God's will. Love and follow Him with the expectancy that He will lead you and His will will be accomplished in your life.

CONCLUSION

Are you actively living with expectancy?

Expectancy hopes, believing that good will be done or come without the expectation of the way it will. It leads to greater faith, joy, thankfulness, and worship.

The power of God's Word, the performance of His work, and the purpose of His will lead us to live with expectancy. Let's practice it today!

REFERENCES

Expectation v. Expectancy. (2015, March 17). Laurie Coombs. <https://lauriecoombs.org/2015/03/17/expectation-v-expectancy/>

Johnson, J. A., PhD. (2020, February 22). *The Psychology of Expectations*. Psychology Today. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/cui-bono/201802/the-psychology-expectations>