

Overview

All of us have expectations in various areas of our lives. Some of us will write down expectations while others will just periodically think of them. Some of the areas of life where we have expectations include our finances, marriage, raising kids, relationships with family and friends, and health. Problems occur when your current reality doesn't line up with your expectations. Maybe you entered into marriage with the expectation of being able to work through every disagreement and then a situation arises where you and your spouse have completely different opinions. Maybe you have the expectation for a family member to respond to your kindness in a certain way, and they end up not even acknowledging what you have done. Failed expectations can lead to incredible sadness and hurt.

The question we are going to be addressing is: "What are your expectations for God?" Before you say "I don't have any" consider that every relationship carries with it expectations. You may expect that if you pray, read your Bible, and remain faithful that God will bless you in some way. You might have the expectations that after earnestly seeking God's will in your life that you may not experience problems. What happens when your expectation for God doesn't meet your current reality? This can lead to you either doubting your faith or doubting in God's faithfulness. This is what was occurring in Luke 24. Cleopas and another disciple are leaving Jerusalem after the crucifixion of Jesus. It has been three days since Jesus was crucified and buried. The man they thought to be their mighty king was dead. They had the expectation of Jesus being the Messiah. He was supposed to establish a Jewish kingdom and throw off the Roman rule. Jesus did not live up to their expectations and they left Jerusalem hurt and without hope. Luke 24:17 reads: "they stood still, their faces downcast." How do you respond when God doesn't live up to your expectations? What do you do when God doesn't respond how you think He should respond? Maybe you pray for a job and still remain unemployed. Maybe you pray for a cure and still remain sick. These two men on their way to Emmaus were working through all their disappointment.

Bible Study: Luke 24:13-32

1. Jerusalem was a very chaotic city during and after the crucifixion of Jesus. Read Luke 24:13-14. Cleopas and the other disciple wanted to just get away for a while. What do you do when things in life become chaotic? How do you decompress and handle all the stress of life?
2. Read Luke 24:19. The two disciples called Jesus: "a mighty prophet" and "Jesus of Nazareth." They don't refer to Him as the Messiah or King. How do these two descriptions of Jesus in verse 19 give insight into what these two disciples thought of Him?
3. Read Luke 24:21. These two had lost hope. Discuss as a group what it must have been like for them to lose hope. The redeemer of Israel was dead. How do you deal with disappointment in life?
4. Read Luke 24:22-24. They had been told that the tomb of Jesus was empty and yet they still didn't believe He had risen. Read Hebrews 11:1. How would you describe your faith to someone who doesn't yet know Jesus?
5. Read Luke 24:25-27. Why do you think Jesus takes the time to re-explain the scriptures to these men instead of just revealing who He was?
6. What are some of the dangers of expecting God to act and respond in a certain way? What occurs when your faith is based on how you think God should respond instead of just God Himself?

7. Read Luke 24:32. The two travelers just experienced Godly heartburn. They finally realized that God was in control the whole time and they just needed to have faith. Discuss a situation in your life that, after looking back, you realized God was in control of the whole time, even if you didn't believe it while everything was occurring.