

# **ADJUSTING EXPECTATIONS**

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Expectations are incredibly powerful. As we are on the tail end of this election, I think it is safe to say that there are results and outcomes that none of us expected, some we like and some we don't. As a result, we may have to adjust our expectations of what the future holds for our governing bodies, and I would recommend, we hold those expectations loosely, for whenever we hold too tightly to our expectations, the more painful it will be when they need to be adjusted. This is what we see among the Jewish people with the coming of Yeshua, the Messiah King. From the religious leaders, to the disciples, to the crowds, there were some deeply held expectations that Jesus simply didn't fulfill and it caused quite a bit of turmoil and confusion. As we pick back up in our Yeshua series this week, we will do a fly over recap to hopefully bring us back up to speed as well as be challenged by the teaching of Jesus.

## **YESHUA MESSIAH KING HAS COME!**

By the time Jesus begins his public ministry, the Jewish people have been eagerly awaiting the Messiah for over 1000 years! There were numerous prophecies about the Messiah (Anointed One) who would come, set the Jewish people free from their oppressors and set up the new kingdom of Israel. As a result, the nation of Israel had developed some strong expectations regarding who the Messiah would be, and what he would do. Jesus had come to set up a kingdom for the Jewish people, but because he did not fill their expectations, particularly the expectations among the religious leaders, his offer of the kingdom would be retracted, and God would reveal a new Kingdom plan.

## **THE ROLE OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS**

One of the major expectations held by the nation was that the Messiah would come and work with the religious leaders (Pharisees, Sadducees, and teachers of the Law) to set up this kingdom. These religious leaders saw themselves as the authority over the nation, and expected the Messiah to validate their authority. However, there was a deeply held, and deeply wrong belief that they had in regards to the Oral Law (Mishna) and the Mosaic Law. The Oral law had developed in an attempt to ensure that the written Mosaic law was followed. It was a list of man-made laws, that built "fences" around the God given Mosaic law.

As Jesus began his public ministry, it quickly became apparent, that the religious leaders had elevated the Oral law equal to, if not above, the Mosaic law. Not only that, but the religious leaders were using the Oral law as a way to control and manipulate the Jewish nation. Jesus made this a focal point of his ministry, openly rejecting the Oral law and establishing the Mosaic law as the true law given to the Jewish people. This rejection of the Oral law, led to numerous conflicts with the religious leaders, and would eventually lead to their formal rejection of Jesus as the Messiah. This day of rejection was a massive turning point in the plan and ministry of Jesus.

## **THE DAY OF REJECTION AND INAUGURATION (MATTHEW 12)**

The tension came to a head one day when Jesus cast a demon out of a man. Jesus was clearly showing he had supernatural power. He had done numerous public miracles, all the while rejecting the religious leaders claims of the authority of the Oral law. This brought the religious leaders to a point of decision, as they clearly saw Jesus perform the miraculous, yet they were unwilling or unable (due to their hard hearts) to accept that his power and authority was from God. This left them with only one option; to publicly reject Jesus as the Messiah, and to claim that Jesus was able to perform the miraculous because he was empowered by "Beelzebul" or Satan. These men, who should have seen Jesus' power and authority and adjusted their expectations, had now publicly and definitively rejected Jesus and declared that he was an agent of Satan. This decision had irreversible consequences. It was on this day that Jesus retracted his offer of the Messianic Kingdom and inaugurated the new or "mystery" kingdom. As a form of his judgment on the religious leaders and those who followed them, he began to teach in parables to hide the truth from those who wouldn't eagerly seek to understand it. Following his rejection, he taught nine parables to reveal different aspects of this new kingdom.

## **THE TIME TO TRAIN THE TWELVE.**

Now that he had been publicly rejected by the religious leaders, Jesus knew that his time on earth would be short. It was no secret that these religious leaders, incensed at Jesus for his rejection of their authority, were looking for a way to kill him. With his time rapidly coming to a close, Jesus began training his twelve closest disciples what it would mean to "follow him" after he was gone. He began to teach them very clearly about his death and resurrection, but as he taught them, they struggled to understand what he was saying, and to overcome their own previous expectations, yet they stuck with him for they knew he "had the words of life" (John 6:68)

The last section we looked at came on the heels of Jesus taking his closest three disciples (Peter, James, and John) up with him for the amazing event known as the "Transfiguration" (Matt 17:1-13, and the miraculous payment of the temple tax for Peter (Matt 17:24-27). Following these two events, the disciples began to dispute which one of them was the greatest. Jesus responds to their prideful arguing by calling up a child to use as an illustration, that the one who would be great in this new kingdom, must become like a child. (Matt 18:1-4) Next week, we will look at how Jesus continues to use this child as a powerful teaching tool for his disciples.

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### **Grace Family News**

Voice of the Martyrs Monthly Needs: Bath Towels, Washcloths, Antiseptic wipes

Operation Christmas Child: Head to the patio to pick up or pack your shoebox..

Women's Christmas Gala, December 11th & 12th - Purchase tickets today at the women's kiosk on the patio.