

What Are You Expecting?

With new restrictions being declared by most of the Governors of the U.S.

- Attempts to regulate normal school attendance,
- Orders on how we can spend Thanksgiving and perhaps Christmas with our families [forget about having friends or relatives other than immediate family in a group],
- Continued tension from the 2020 Presidential election,
- Covid pandemic increasing
- Unsure feelings about a vaccine being safe

Other than those stresses, how are you doing?

I want to share a message today from persons we read about in the Scriptures that were faced with obstacles and events in their lives that presented situations where they had little or no hope for a future. **But God had other plans for them!**

Hope is described as:

1. A **desire** of some good, accompanied with at least a slight expectation of obtaining it, or a belief that it is obtainable.
Hope differs from a wish and desire in that it implies some expectation of obtaining the good desired, or at least the possibility of possessing it.
Hope gives a sense of pleasure of joy.
2. **Confidence** in a future event; the highest degree of well-founded expectation of good.

Expectation is described as:

1. The act of expecting or looking forward to a future event with at least some reason to believe the event will happen.
2. Expectation differs from hope in that hope originates in desire, and may exist with little or no ground of belief that the desired event will arrive.
3. Expectation is founded on some reasons which render the event probable.

Job 14 opens saying: v.1-2 “Man who is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes out like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and continues.”
v. 7-9 “For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will **sprout again**, and that its shoots will not cease. Though its root grow old in the earth, and its stump die in the soil, **yet at the scent of water it will bud and put out branches like a young plant.**”
v. 14- “If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my service I would wait, **till my renewal** should come.”

Job points out that man's life is short, troubled and over quickly as compared to a tree cut down.

- Yet, just as a remaining stump [thought dead] catches the scent of water and revives and is renewed; Job trusts in the Lord that he too will sprout again and has hope that the Lord is not finished with him.

We see the end of Job circumstances:

- Though his friends cursed and ridiculed and questioned his faith and integrity-
- Though even his wife encouraged him to just curse the Lord and get it over with and die-
- Even though Job's faith and trust in the Lord wavered and he questioned WHY ME?

James 5:11 Job's endurance

“Behold, we count them happy which endure. You have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.”

Job 42:12-17 “So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning; for he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys.

He had also seven sons and three daughters. And in all the land were no women found as fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. After this Job lived 140 years and saw his sons and his son's sons, even four generations. So Job died, being old and full of days.”

Through the Lords blessing, we too are going to come through this time of struggle, anxiety, and turmoil and become more than a conqueror through Christ Jesus.

Mark 5:25-27 “A woman who had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse – after hearing about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind Him and touched His cloak/tallit. For she said, if I just touch His garments, I will get well. Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.”

You know this story:

- The woman had suffered a long time – twelve years – weak physically from the blood loss & frustration and disappointment of failure to be better.
- A social reject due to the uncleanness of her condition. Forbidden to be out in public.

- She had enough money [at first] to spend on going to the doctors, she had gone to several seeking opinions and cures.
- Now she was financially depleted, suffering worse, emotionally drained; but upon hearing about Jesus; had enough hope to give this a try.
- What did she have to lose, she was already bankrupt financially, emotionally and physically.

There was no answers, yet she still hoped anyway!

Some of you here today or hearing this are in a similar condition:

- You've tried all the conventional ways to get your physical, mental, emotional, financial, marital, spiritual conditions to improve.
- You're exhausted from running from place to place, person to person, answer to answer.
- So I speak to you today to open your heart to Him and give Him a chance to become the cure, solution that you need.

The woman in Mark 5 was not going to let all the failures of the other attempts stop her and cause her to doubt what Jesus could do.

- She had heard about Him, but had not heard Him for herself.
- She refused to let the failed attempts stop her from getting to Jesus.
- She refused to allow other people's opinions of her [being defiled] from coming to Jesus.
- She was determined she was not going to miss her time of healing from Jesus.
- She determined that no matter how far she had to crawl in the dust [humiliating herself], she was going to touch Him.

This woman had lost a lot in her life; but she had hope that Jesus was her answer!

**Deep within you is a spirit of faith, just waiting to be resurrected. Get to Him!
Whatever it takes, touch Him. Crawl if you have to, but get to Him!**

Your need may not be physical as this woman's was, it doesn't matter what the need is – Jesus wants to meet you where you are and touch you and supply your every need.

1. Expect the **glory** of the Lord to come to and upon you – Isa. 60:1 AMP

“**Arise**, [from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you – rise to a new life].

Shine [be radiant with the glory of the Lord] for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.”

Hebrew word for “Glory” means **heavy** or **weighty** – “Expect the weighty, heavy glory of the Lord to invade your life.”

2. Expect **light** to shine on your path – Isa. 60:2-3

“Behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you and His glory will be seen upon you. Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising.”

- As you fellowship with the Lord: His Word, Prayer, and Worship – you will continue to walk in light.
- As you walk in fellowship, your hope will continually be renewed.

3. Expect His **presence** to be manifested in your life in a new way – Isa. 60:2

“The Lord will rise upon you.”

- If you have grown cold or casual in your relationship with the Lord; He is ready to awaken you with a new season of His presence.
- You can expect visitation from His Spirit to renew you.

4. Expect new **vision** to come to you – Isa. 60:4

“Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.”

- This is a day to renew vision, hope.
- This is not a time of retreat, apathy, or stagnation.
- It’s time to take hold of a fresh ability to see.

5. Expect new **joy** to rise up in you – Isa. 60:5

“Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you.”

- We need new joy and that can be our expectation – Neh. 8:10 “Do not be grieved for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

6. Expect abundant **provision** – Isa. 60:5c-7

“...the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord. All the

flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you; the rams of Nebioth shall minister to you; they shall come up with acceptance on my altar, and I will beautify my beautiful house.”

- We need to expect the provision of the Lord in our lives because He wants to meet our every need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus – Phil. 4:19.
- Expect poverty [material, physical, spiritual] to be broken off of you.

7. Expect your **gates** to open – Acts 12:10

“They came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself.”

- Gates refer to authority – so expect the authority of the Lord to be released in your life.
- Gen. 22:17 – “You will possess the gates of your enemies.”
- Psa. 24:7-9 - “Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of Glory may come in. who is this King of Glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!
Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors that the King of Glory may come in.
Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory!”

8. Expect the **Word of the Lord** to grow and be multiplied – Acts 12:24

“But the Word of the God grew and multiplied.”

- Expect the Word of the Lord over your family, your neighborhood, your city to increase and be fulfilled.
- Hope in God’s Word – expect it to multiply.

Rom. 15:13 “The God of hope will fill you with all joy and peace in believing and you will abound in hope.

A life of hope is your destiny – so what are you doing settling for anything less!