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# When Your Expectations of Jesus Don't Fit Your Plans

A HOLY WEEK BIBLE STUDY AT HOME  
FOR SINGLE WOMEN

What happens when your expectations of Jesus don't fit your plans? Do you find yourself like Cinderella's stepsisters trying to force your foot into a shoe that doesn't fit? Or do you find yourself tempted to go ahead with your plans instead of waiting on God?

Palm Sunday celebrates Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The crowd lined the streets waving palms as they welcomed Jesus with great expectation and enthusiasm.

This familiar story invites us to revisit the crowd during Holy Week and reflect on how we can look to Jesus when he does not meet our expectations.

*Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"* Mark 11:8-10

The Jews had been waiting a long time to acknowledge their Messiah. As Jesus passed through the gates of Jerusalem, the crowd shouted "Hosanna" which means save us.

**What was the expectation of the crowd?**

**What is it about singleness, especially unwanted, that we shout for Jesus to "save us."**

The same crowd who celebrated Jesus, days later shouted, “Crucify Him!” The disciples too were disappointed that Jesus did not save them from the Roman government. On the road to Emmaus, two of the disciples shared how their hopes of being saved was buried in the tomb with Jesus.



*The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. Luke 24:20-21*

Even though the expectation of Jesus didn't happen as the disciples envisioned, God had plans to save them from more than the Roman empire.

In the article, *Palm Sunday and the Gift of Disillusionment*, Jonathan Merritt writes: Jesus is a king, but not the kind they wanted. He will serve rather than be served. He will die and not be killed. He enters unarmed, waging peace. This makes a larger point that God does not intend to meet our expectations. Instead, he meets our needs. This type of God makes me uncomfortable. I don't want vegetables when I'm craving candy. I want a God that satisfies my desires, whether or not those align with my needs. And so it is with all of us. We welcome God into our lives with anticipation, with expectation. We're laying down cloaks and waving palm branches with all we've got. But when God turns out to be someone we don't recognize; we scatter like smoke in the wind.

**Read Philippians 4:19. What did God promise He would meet?**

**Write about a time when God knew better what you needed than what you thought you needed.**

Whether you are waiting for a husband, a dream job, a healing, or something else important in your life, waiting on God is one of the most difficult things we are called to do.

The enemy wants to use every tear and unmet expectation to make you think that God doesn't love you. Satan is jumping at the chance to make you stumble in your despair.

Psalm 5:2-3 says, *"Hear my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly."*

**In this verse, how does the Psalmist tell us to wait?**

**How does the enemy want us to wait?**

Don't waste your waiting. It is an opportunity for God to shape who you are becoming in your singleness. S. Lewis said, "God would not have anyone waiting unless he saw it was good for them to wait."

**Recall God's goodness towards you. What expectations has he already met? What expectations did God exceed in meeting?**

We often try to make Jesus fit into the King that we want Him to be. If we are not careful, we can be like the crowd who misunderstood Jesus and why He came to save us.

Jesus ultimately came as the King of Kings to triumph over sin and death. His plans are to conform us into the image of His Son.

God knows you will be discouraged or sad because of an unmet expectation regarding someone or something. Disappointment will either drive you away from God or drive you to God.

It is crucial to renew your mind with God's Word to take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

**Look up the following scriptures to help you focus on Jesus and His plans when you are disappointed in your singleness. What scripture ministers to you in this season of your life?**

**Lamentations 3:25**

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

**Isaiah 40:31**

**Proverbs 16:9**

**1 Peter 5:6-8**

**Habakkuk 2:3**

**Isaiah 55:8-9**

**Psalms 119:116**





**GOD'S PLANS WILL ALWAYS BE MORE BEAUTIFUL  
THAN ALL YOUR UNMET EXPECTATIONS.**