

“When God Doesn’t Live Up to Your Expectations”

Dec. 12, 2004 * St. Andrew’s Church * Matt 11:2-11 * David Brannen

When life doesn’t go as expected...

1. Go to Jesus with your _____ .

Jude 22 - Be merciful to those who doubt.

Matthew 11:2-3 - ² When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?”

Matthew 11:4 - ⁴ Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see...”

How do you “go to Jesus”?

• **Hang on to what Jesus has _____ .**

John 14:10 - The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

• **Reflect on what Jesus has _____ .**

John 14:9 - (Jesus) “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”

2. Let Jesus define _____ .

Matthew 11:4-5 - ⁴ Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.

Isaiah 61:1 - The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor... to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners...

Matthew 11:6 - (Jesus said) “Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.”

Isaiah 55:8 - (NLT) - “My thoughts are completely different from yours,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. ⁹ For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

3. Believe what Jesus says about your _____ .

Matthew 11:7-11 - ⁷ ...Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. ⁹ Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, will prepare your way before you.” ¹¹ I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Luke 1:13-16 - ¹³ ...the angel said to (Zechariah)... “Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord... he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. ¹⁶ Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God.

Matthew 25:23 - (The master to the faithful servant) - “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

Translation key: Unless noted, all verses are from the New International Version; NLT = New Living Translation.