



Living Up to God's Expectations

Live with justice, mercy, and love in Christ

Micah 6:8 (NKJV): - "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?"

Introduction

In the grand narrative of our faith, God's expectations for us are not hidden but laid out in His Word. From Genesis to Revelation, **He calls His people to live in a way that reflects His heart, His nature, and His purpose.** But what does that look like in our day-to-day lives? Let's explore this by drawing from various biblical stories, focusing on how God's expectations unfolded for key characters. Ultimately, we'll see how Jesus is central to living out these expectations.

1. God's Expectation of Faith: Abraham's Call to Trust (Genesis 12:1-4)

Let's start with Abraham, who was known as the father of faith. When God called him to leave his homeland, He didn't give Abraham all the details. He simply said, "Go to the land I will show you" (Genesis 12:1). **Abraham didn't have a roadmap or a detailed plan, but he had faith. God's expectation of him was simple but challenging—trust Me.**

Abraham's obedience to this call was foundational, not just for him but for generations after him. In Abraham's story, we see that God expects faith from us. He may not always give us the full picture of our lives or our journey, but He calls us to trust Him step by step. **Psalm 37:5 (NKJV):** "Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass"

Application: God calls us to place our **complete trust in Him, even when we don't have all the details, knowing that He will guide and fulfill His promises.**

2. God's Expectation of Obedience: Jonah's Reluctant Mission (Jonah 1-3)

Now, consider Jonah. When God asked Jonah to go to Nineveh, Jonah ran in the opposite direction. Why? **Because obeying God's will wasn't convenient for Jonah.** He didn't think Nineveh deserved God's mercy.

But here's the lesson:

- **God's expectations don't change based on our preferences.**
- **He expects obedience, even when it's uncomfortable.**

After running, being swallowed by a great fish, and delivered back to shore, Jonah finally obeyed and preached to Nineveh. The city repented, and God's mercy was extended. **Through Jonah, we learn that God expects our obedience, even when we don't fully understand or agree with His ways.**

Application: God expects us to **obey Him, even when it's uncomfortable or goes against our preferences.**

3. God's Expectation of Love: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

One of the clearest expectations God has for us is to love others. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus illustrated what it means to love our neighbor. A priest and a Levite, both religious men, walked past a man beaten and left for dead. But a Samaritan, considered an outsider, stopped, cared for the man, and made sure he was restored to health.

Jesus used this story to demonstrate that God's expectation of love transcends societal boundaries and personal biases. It's not enough to follow religious rules—**we are called to love those around us, even those we might consider enemies.**

Application: God calls us to love others without boundaries,

Who are you called to love today? God's expectation is that we show His love to everyone, especially those in need. **John 13:34-35 (NKJV): "A new commandment I give to you, that you**

love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Jesus said in Matthew 5:17, “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.” He fulfilled every expectation of God perfectly so that through Him, we can walk in righteousness.

Final Challenge:

Let us rely on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). **Micah 6:8 (NKJV):** - “He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?”

1. Prayer for Justice: Lord, help us to pursue justice in our actions.

Isaiah 1:17 - Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor...

2. Prayer for Mercy:

God, teach us to love mercy and extend grace to others. - Ephesians 4:32: “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another...”

3. Prayer for Humility: Father, grant us a spirit of humility as we walk with You.

Philippians 2:3: Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind...

