

# Expectations vs. Reality

Insights on Luke 19:28-44

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, March 25, 2018

## Israel's Expectations:

(Luke 19:36-40)

1. They wanted \_\_\_\_\_

2. They wanted \_\_\_\_\_

3. They wanted \_\_\_\_\_

4. They wanted \_\_\_\_\_

## The Reality of Jesus:

(Luke 19:41-44, Luke 23:26-56, Colossians 1:15-23)

1. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_

2. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_

3. Jesus gives \_\_\_\_\_

4. True peace \_\_\_\_\_

## When our expectations don't match reality:

(Proverbs 3:5-6, John 4:21-24, John 14:15)

- We...

- We...

- We...

- We...

## This weeks discussion guide:

### Welcome to "Week 11" of our small group session!

We are glad that you have taken this journey with us digging into God's Word with others. We will be taking a 2 week break from small groups after Easter but will be starting back up the week of April 15th.

### Looking Back:

Each week we'll look and have an opportunity to share with our group how the week went and also share a few things to help us get to know each other better. What is something encouraging or not so encouraging that happened since our last meeting?

1. Of all our senses, smell seems to be the one that is best at bringing back memories. Our sense of smell has the ability to instantaneously trigger memories of events, places or people from our past. Can you think of one or two smells that trigger good memories of your childhood?

2. This coming Sunday is Easter and with this comes a lot of family traditions. What are some of the most fun and memorable family traditions you have established for the Easter holiday? Are you going to be doing these again this year?

Each week in "looking back," we also want to give each other the opportunity to look back since our last meeting and share how we applied something to our daily lives that we learned or discussed previously from God's Word.

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or needs some clarification?

## Looking Up:

1. We read this weekend about how Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem because the people “just didn’t get it.” Throughout the book of Luke, we see Jesus’ commitment to helping people understand the right kingdom so they would get it. What do we learn about Jesus’ attitude about people who “don’t get it” in **Matthew 9:35-38**?

How can we adopt this same attitude in our lives as we interact with people who “don’t get it?”

2. When our expectations don’t match the reality of who Jesus is, Dave encouraged us to trust God and his word. Read these examples of people who trusted God in the midst of circumstances which didn’t always make sense.

- **Genesis 15:1-6, Esther 4:8-17, Acts 9:10-19**

How do these stories encourage you to walk in trust even when things don’t make sense?

3. We see in the story of the Triumphal Entry a lot of misplaced expectations put on Jesus. When their expectations weren’t met, we see in just a short while they turned on Jesus and wanted him dead. Read these stories of misplaced expectations. What were their expectations and what was shown to be the reality?

- **2 Kings 5:1-14, 1 Samuel 4:1-11, Matthew 16:21-23**

How can these passages help us to adjust our expectations when they don’t match up to the reality of who God is?

4. We were encouraged this weekend to worship God for who he is. Too often we worship God for who we would like him to be for us. What are some practical ways we can learn who Jesus is so we can worship him based upon what he reveals about himself as compared to who we want him to be?

## Looking Forward:

This last section is based on passages like the one below.

*But don’t just listen to God’s Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the Word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.*  
*James 1:22-25 (NLT)*

Let’s take a few minutes to silently pray and reflect back on this last week’s message and what we discussed in our group. As we reflect, let’s all pray and ask God for a specific application that He might prompt us to live out this week. If you are willing, share this with the group.

To help us as we reflect, here are some possible applications to get us thinking...

- Read through the Gospel of Luke so you begin to get a clearer understanding of who Jesus is and so line up your expectations of God appropriately.
- Pray this week specifically for God to reveal those areas in your life where your expectations of God don’t line up with the reality of who he is.
- What areas of your life are lacking in obedience? Take one step of obedience this week.

As we look forward to this week, let’s pray for one another!