

“What Do You Expect?”

Text: 1 Samuel 17

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PRAY!

Story of going to China!

Faith is an attitude of confidence. It is positive expectations.

God has established the law of expectation. That law is:

- We tend to get what we expect out of life.
- We see what we expect to see.
- We feel what we expect to feel.
- For the most part, we act what we expect to act.
- We achieve what we expect to achieve.

Our expectations influence all of our lives. It influences our happiness, our health, our marriage, our careers, our relationships, our abilities.

This is what God is talking about in Matthew 9:29 where Jesus touched the blind men's eyes and said, *“According to your faith it will be done unto you.”*

- You get to choose how much God blesses you.
- You get to choose how much you experience in life.
- You get to choose what limits you set on yourself.

God says, “According to your faith it will be done unto you.”

The key question is, ‘What are you expecting? What are expecting from life?’

This morning we're going to look at a biblical story that shows an example of positive expectation. 1 Samuel 17 is the story of David and Goliath.

- Goliath was a giant from the enemy nation. He was over nine feet tall and wore a couple hundred pounds of silver and metal.
- He had immobilized the Israelite armies. They were afraid of him. Everyday he would walk out on the battlefield and say, *“Send out your best man and I'll fight him and whoever wins, wins the battle.”* Everybody was frightened to death and the Bible says in v. 11, *“On hearing the Philistine's words, (King) Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and were terrified.”*
- Along comes this little teenager who's been tending sheep, named David. Vs. 32 says, *“David said to Saul, ‘Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine. Your servant will go and fight.’”* He's audacious. He says, ‘I'll

do it. I've got a slingshot and I'll take this guy on.' Vs. 37, *"The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of the Philistine."*

- David expected the best. It's all a matter of perspective. While everybody else was saying, "That guy's too big! We'll never be able to kill him." David said, "He's so big, I can't miss him!" The difference is perspective: too big to kill – too big to miss.
- David takes him on in a one-on-one battle. He goes out on the field.

This story shows us three things that expecting the best does in our lives.

1. Expecting the best honors God.

- vs. 46, David says to Goliath, *"This day the Lord will hand you over to me and I'll strike you down and cut off your head and today I'll give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth."* He's picturing this for Goliath. "Goliath, this is what I'm going to do to you. You're going to be chopped liver."
- Then David says, *"The whole world will know that there's a God in Israel and those who gather here will know that it's not by sword or spear that the Lord saves, but the battle is the Lord's and He will give all of you into our hands."* What a testimony of faith! He expects the best. It honors God.
- Nothing pleases God more than your great expectations. It pleases God when you expect a lot from Him.

2. Expecting the best increases ability.

- When we act in faith, we receive additional supernatural strength.
- vs. 48, *"As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly to the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone he slung it in his slingshot and struck the Philistine on the forehead."* That was the only part of his body that was uncovered by metal. David's ability was tremendous. He had the expectation – I expect this guy to be killed. He was setting himself up. And his faith in God said, "God will provide."
- What does that teach us? Don't ever use a lack of ability as an excuse. "I can't do it. I'm too old/young. I don't have the ability/education." God can compensate for that if you have the level of expectation. Never let an impossible situation intimidate you. Let it motivate you.

3. Expecting the best encourages other people.

- Optimism and enthusiasm and faith are contagious. Vs. 51, *"David ran and he stood over Goliath after he had killed him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the scabbard and after he had killed him he cut his head off with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran."* Look at the attitude change in the Israeli army. *"Then the men of Israel and Judah surged*

forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron.”

- b. Everybody wanted to get on the winning team. Expecting the best encourages others. Enthusiasm. Optimism is contagious.

How do you get that attitude of expectancy like David? How do you have a faith so that God says, “According to your faith it will be done unto you.” If you want more done in your life you’ve got to increase your faith. How?

1. Start your day with faith, not doubt.

- a. Psalm 5:3 was written by David, the same man who slew Goliath. David says, “Morning by morning O Lord, You hear my voice. Morning by morning I lay my request before you and ***I wait in expectation.***” David said, “Every morning I get up and I meet with God and I lay my requests before Him and I wait in expectation.”
- b. God says start your day with faith, not doubt. Start it with great expectations. “This is going to be a great day! This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad.”
- c. If you want to develop a more positive personality, start the day with the Lord. Start with good news not bad news. Don’t turn on the TV in the morning or the news channel on the radio. If you listen to rape, murder, bomb threats, explosions, going deeper into deficit, you’re adding all the national problems onto your own as if you don’t have enough! Don’t start negative. Start with the positive. You can read the paper at the end of the day. Start with good news.
- Listen to cheerful music.
 - Put on an inspirational tape on the way to work.
 - Read a good book.
 - Memorize a promise.
 - Talk to the Lord. Have a quiet time.
 - Start with positive input into your life and that sets the tone of the rest of your day.

2. Look for something good in everyone and everything.

- a. Romans 8:28, “And we know all things work together for good (they’re not all good but they all work together) for those who love God, for those who are called according to His purpose.”
- b. All things don’t work together for good for everybody. All things do work together for the good of those who love God and who are trying to live in His purpose. God specializes in taking the bad and bringing good out of it.
- You look for something good in everything and everyone.
 - You emphasize the positive. That will raise the expectation level.
 - Somebody said, “Things turn out the best for those who make the best of the way things turn out.”
- c. You look for something good in everything and everyone.

3. Watch your words.

- a. Ephesians 4:29 is a verse everyone of you ought to read over and over. *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth, but only what is helpful for building up others, [not tearing up others but building them up] according to their needs [not according to **your** needs] that it may benefit those who listen [not that it may benefit **you**].”*
- b. He says, *“Don’t let any negative language come out of your mouth, only that which builds up and encourages and lifts up and meets the needs of others”*. Words are a powerful force in our lives and they have tremendous influence. If you’re going to live by faith, you’ve got to learn to watch the way you talk.
- c. Watch your words, Ephesians says.

4. Associate with positive people and avoid complainers.

- a. 1 Corinthians 15:33, *“Bad company corrupts good character.”* Over and over again in scriptures we are taught to watch our relationships and friendships because they have such a profound influence on our lives. People around us who are constantly negative, constantly putting us down, being critical, nagging, complaining, always looking at the wrong things, saying what’s wrong... the Bible says stay away from them.
- b. If you are naturally a negative person, the best thing in the world you could do is get around optimists. It rubs off. Get around positive people.

5. When you pray, thank God in advance.

- a. Mark 11:22-24, Jesus says, *“Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go throw yourself into the sea and does not doubt in his heart but believes what he says will happen, then it will be done for him. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer believe that you have received it and it will be yours.”* The Moffett translation of this verse says, *“When you pray, believe you’ve got it and then you’ll get it.”*
- b. Faith is thanking God in advance.
 - Lloyd Ogilvie – “Ask the Lord once and then thank Him a thousand times.”

The power of expectation, the power of positive faith can change your life. We don’t always get what we deserve in life but in the long run we get what we expect.

What are you expecting this week?

- Some of you are expecting a **lab report** from your doctor. What do you do? Expect the best. Worrying won’t change anything.
- Some of you are going to have a **conference at your work**. Expect God to help you.

- Some of you need to **make a sale** this week. Expect the best.
- Some of you have a **major decision** to make in **your marriage**. Expect God to take it and work it all out.

“According to your faith it will be done unto you.” Nothing is more pleasing to God than your great expectations.

PRAYER

“Lord, help me to expect the best. Lord, I want to begin each day this week with faith not doubt.

Lord, help me to look for the good in things and the good in people. Help me not to deny my problems, but to defy my problems and to face them confident with Your power.

Lord, help me to watch my words. Would you do surgery on my vocabulary and eliminate the complaints about my life or my health or my future or anything else I have a tendency to complain about?

Lord, help me to get around some optimists and quit hanging out with those complainers, cynics, negative thinkers.” Maybe you need to be in a small group where you can get around some positive people.

“Lord, thank You that this is going to be a great week! Thank You that my faith is going to grow this week. Thank you that You’re going to help me this week.”

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your word and we thank You that You will apply it in our lives this week as we trust You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.