

2 Corinthians 4:1-10 (CSB)

Therefore, since we have this ministry because we were shown mercy, we do not give up. 2 Instead, we have renounced secret and shameful things, not acting deceitfully or distorting the word of God, but commending ourselves before God to everyone's conscience by an open display of the truth. 3 But if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we are not proclaiming ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus's sake. 6 For God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 Now we have this treasure in clay jars, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us. 8 We are afflicted in every way but not crushed; we are perplexed but not in despair; 9 we are persecuted but not abandoned; we are struck down but not destroyed. 10 We always carry the death of Jesus in our body, so that the life of Jesus may also be displayed in our body.

7) What are some expectations we can have based on the passage above?

8) What does it mean from the passage to be a jar of clay?

9) Have you ever had any unrealistic expectations about God, what were they and how did you overcome them?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Read 2 Corinthians Chapter 4, and pray through the following questions.

- 1) In thinking about expectations, what is this passage teaching us?
- 2) Who can you be praying for that God would remove the veil from their heart for the Gospel?
- 3) What is God speaking to you about from this passage and how does He want you to apply it?

Come and You Will See

The Presence of God

Pastor Craig Sweeney | May 19, 2024

Jesus has invited you to walk with Him. We are exploring what you can expect to see as you say "yes" to walking at His side.

Thread: Before you enter the presence of God, you're going to want to understand a few things.

Text: Matthew 6:5 – 13 ESV

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites..."

Matthew 6:5 ESV

Something obvious:

Something not so obvious:

II Corinthians 4:5 – 9 ESV

The difference between conviction and condemnation:

- Condemnation causes me to look DOWN in despair and defeat.
- Conviction causes me to look UP in hope and expectation.

"...For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward." **Matthew 6:5 ESV**

Prayer has a motive and reward.

- Friendship with God (Ex 33:11), (Is 41:8), (Job 29:4), (Pr 3:31–32), (Ps 25:14–15)

"But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." **Matthew 6:6 – 8 ESV**

What do you seek from the presence of God?

Challenge:

- What has Jesus taught you about spending time in the presence of God? What will you do about it?
- Let friendship with God be your first motive and the ultimate reward you seek.

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Life Group Homework

Come and See

Spring 2024 | Week 8

Message Date 5/19/2024

MY STORY

- 1) What is your favorite way of travel for vacations?
- 2) Would you rather give up heating or cooling in your home?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

This week we will be unpacking the idea of expectations.

4) What is an expectation? How do you categorize them?

5) Let's take a moment and categorize expectations. A couple things to note--we all have these; no one is without them. Some are very good, and some are negative.

Internal (about me) **OR** **External** (about others including organizations)
Communicated **OR** **Uncommunicated**
Realistic **OR** **Unrealistic**

The outcomes of these are they are:

Met **OR** **Unmet**

6) What are the differences between these word sets?

One of the major challenges, I see most people struggling with in regard to expectations is they are simply uncommunicated and unrealistic. The moment I have an uncommunicated expectation of someone around me, it immediately becomes unrealistic because people are not mind readers. This is especially true of a spouse or friends. Something I've always found helpful when dealing with expectations is asking someone to help me recognize whether it's realistic or unrealistic. Let's chat about a few examples, and discuss in your group which categories these fall into.

- I will go out tomorrow and run a marathon.
- When I pray, God will answer my prayer the way I want Him to.
- My spouse or friend should know what I want for dinner.

Now that we've unpacked expectations and how they work, we're going to dive into this passage and see what type of expectations we should have about God and the world around us.