

Expecting the Impossible

Introduction

Matthew 7:15-20

1. There is a warning in this text against deception.
 - A. Deception: “meant to deceive as a fraud”
 - 1) Some think they are being deceptive but in reality are seen for who they really are!
 - B. Appearances are deceitful but fruit is evidence of good or bad.
2. It is foolish to expect the impossible of others.
 - A. Sometimes the preacher may expect it from the congregation and **often times** the congregation expects it from the preacher.
3. Regarding that which is impossible and those things that are possible, we must think of three things:
 - A. There are some things we think that are impossible that really are in the realm of possibility.
 - 1) Television - 90 years ago.
 - 2) Doubling the membership and the contribution.
 - B. There are some things that are impossible under any circumstances.
 - 1) Miracles of the first century.
 - C. There are some things that are impossible under certain conditions.

The Non-Christian Often Expects the Impossible

1. **One may expect forgiveness without faith and repentance. But Jesus said:**

John 8:24 “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

- A. **The Jew and today’s modernist expect God’s blessings without true Bible faith!**

- 1) **“Just because you can’t see the air doesn’t stop you from breathing, and just because you can’t see God it shouldn’t stop you from believing!”**

- B. **Those in the world expect God’s favor without repentance. Though they have wronged someone, they act as if it never happened instead of asking for forgiveness!**

Acts 17:30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands **all men everywhere** to repent,

- C. **It is God that has set the standard --- we MUST comply to that standard or we are wrong --- not God-----we are!**

2. **To expect remission of sins without baptism is to expect the impossible.**
 - A. **The gospel MUST be obeyed - not as you think it should, but as God directed that it should.**

Romans 6:17-18 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet **you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.** And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

- 1) **Baptism is a part of that righteousness we become slaves to.**
Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38
- B. **Some ask, "Can't God save without baptism?"**
 - 1) **It's a matter of what He said He will do!**

The disciples asked: "Who then can be saved?"

Matt 19:26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

- C. **Baptism is a condition of remission - no exceptions are revealed in scripture.**
3. **To expect security at the judgment without doing Christ's will is to expect the impossible.**
Matthew 7:24-27
 - A. **The rock is the work of Christ - the sand is the feelings, creeds, and traditions of man.**
 - B. **Safety and security is in eternity with Christ and this is not possible without COMPLETE obedience.**

The Local Church Often Expects the Impossible

1. **To expect growth without diligence is to expect the impossible.**
 - A. **If this church does not grow more numerically or spiritually, is it God's fault? It most certainly is not God's fault!**
2 Timothy 2:15
 - B. **The reason is because of lack of diligence and a true desire to follow God's roadmap to success.**

It may be that members become apathetic

- 1) **We can't expect attendance without us being here.**
 - 2) **We cannot have conversions without contacting the sinners.**
 - 3) **We cannot have a genuine love for the brethren when we do not show love ourselves.**
 - C. **Progress is dependent on our diligence.**
2. **To expect diligence without love is to expect the impossible.**
 - 1) **We must develop a fervent zeal for the Lord's cause, in seeking the betterment for others and not straining at gnats!**

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.

1 Peter 2:17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

3. To expect love without concern for others is to expect the impossible.

A. We should strive to develop the spirit of brotherly love that existed in the first century days.

Acts 2:44-47

John 13:34-35 "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."

B. Love is concern!

1) We must not be too busy or selfish to get acquainted and to be concerned for one another.

2) We can not have warmth and true dedication to God's service without a fire --- that genuine love one for another. It just CAN'T HAPPEN!!

The Individual Christian Often Expects the Impossible

1. To expect satisfaction without sacrifice is to expect the impossible.

A. A spirit of sacrifice is indispensable to a sense of satisfaction.

Luke 14:26-27 If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

- B. Ask: "Why am I not the Christian I ought to be?"**
 - 1) Because we are unwilling to sacrifice our time, money, and talents for the Lord.**
 - a. Often times if we can not be seen of men, we simply will not do it! That was the Pharisee's problem!**
 - C. We cannot gain a crown without the cross!**
- 2. To expect the love of God without punishment is to expect the impossible.**
 - A. God's love does not preclude punishment.**

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."

Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

- B. We expect the good things of God's love.**
James 1:17

- 1) But we also have to expect the dark things!**
 - a. When sorrow comes our way, some say: "God doesn't love me." HOW FOOLISH! Jesus learned obedience through suffering.**

Hebrews 5:8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

- C. To expect God's love without the punishment is to expect the sun without the clouds, the gold without the refining.**

3. To expect happiness without holiness is to expect the impossible.

A. Our happiness is dependent on our holiness.

Psalms 1:1-2

Matthew 5:3-11

B. No sin brings true and lasting happiness!

Hebrews 11:24-26

C. Happiness here and in heaven hereafter depends upon holiness.

Conclusion

- 1. God has set forth the conditions, and the results desired are impossible without meeting ALL---- I repeat ALL the conditions!**
- 2. In the sight of God, we cannot just sit here this morning and be foolish - thinking we can enter heaven without meeting God's standard for entrance – because it simply won't happen – that's impossible!**
- 3. We need to always strive to meet the divine conditions and accomplish God's purpose ----- ALL of God's purpose in us!**
- 4. Without repentance for what WE KNOW are things that are wrong in our life then we will go to HELL! This is not only possible, but it is a promise to all of mankind by the same God who promised us heaven if we will obey!**

Galatians 5:19-21

Apathy

I love thy church, Oh God;
Her walls before me stand;
But please excuse my absence, Lord;
This bed is simply grand!

A charge to keep I have;
A God to glorify;
But Lord, don't ask for cash from me;
The glory comes to high.

Am I a soldier of the cross,
A follower of the Lamb?
Yes! Though I seldom pray or pay,
I still insist I am.

Must Jesus bear the cross alone,
And all the world go free?
No! Others, Lord, should do their part,
But please don't count on me.

Praise God from who all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below!
Oh, loud my hymns of praise I bring,
Because it doesn't cost to sing!