



"...stop and consider the wondrous works of God." - Job 37:14

FAILED EXPECTATIONS

Am I the only one who was disappointed with the lack of snow we got last weekend?

Leading up the weekend, I had been watching the weather, checking it on my weather app, etc., and I was getting excited about possibly getting 12-18" of snow!

Yes, I know, we live in Northeast Tennessee. I even live in Kingsport with the "Eastman Bubble." I know I shouldn't get my hopes up...but I did.

In fact, I even prayed (probably selfishly, which is possibly why we didn't get anything) that we WOULD get 12-18" of snow! My family and I wanted to get snowed in...



But we didn't.

We hardly got anything.

I was disappointed.

We often create expectations for things that rarely turn out the way we anticipate. We have hopes and dreams about how things will be, what things will look like, and how things will turn out in the end only to find that things never seem to work out exactly the way we had hoped, dreamed, and planned.

We create expectations and visions for everything:

- Our future spouse
- Our marriage
- How many kids we will have and their gender
- Our first job
- Our career
- Our retirement plans
- The event we are planning
- How the next sales pitch will go
- How a person will respond to a certain kind of news
- The result of health treatments for some disease

The list is endless.

But what about when our expectations don't pan out.

What about when things don't work out the way we anticipated and envisioned?

Our failed expectations lead to disappointment, and if we are not careful, our disappointment can lead to resentment, bitterness, apathy, depression, and despair.



The truth is that people and things will never meet our expectations and things will never turn out exactly the way that we envision them.

And that's a good thing.

You see, our failed expectations are opportunities for the Lord to do something greater.

Think about these examples from scripture:

- **Abraham and Sarah** were infertile for years. It opened the door for God to work a miracle in making and fulfilling a promise that they would receive a child “in their old age.” This child, Isaac, would be the seed of promise through which God would continue His providential work of making a people for Himself.
- **Moses** expected to lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land but wasn't allowed because of his sin at the waters of Meribah. This paved the way for the Lord to raise up the next leader of the people, Joshua, who would lead the people in their conquest of the Promised Land.
- **The disciples** expected the Messiah to come and deliver them from the oppression of the Romans, but instead their Messiah was killed at the hands of the Romans. Yet this was all part of God's providential plan to provide a greater deliverance, the deliverance from sin, through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah.

You see, our failed expectations and plans are opportunities for God to show us the greater plans that He has in store for us.

So, instead of becoming disappointed and possibly sliding down the slope of bitterness, resentment, apathy, depression, and despair, maybe we should change our perspective.



Let's view our failed expectations through these lenses instead:

- **The Lord is in control** (*Job 42:2; Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 46:9-10*)
- **He is working His plans** (*Proverbs 16:9; Proverbs 19:21*)
- **His plans are not our plans** (*Isaiah 55:8-9*)
- **His plans are always better than ours** (*Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28*)

So, trust Him and get excited for what He has in store.

Derrick Marrs
Ministry Director



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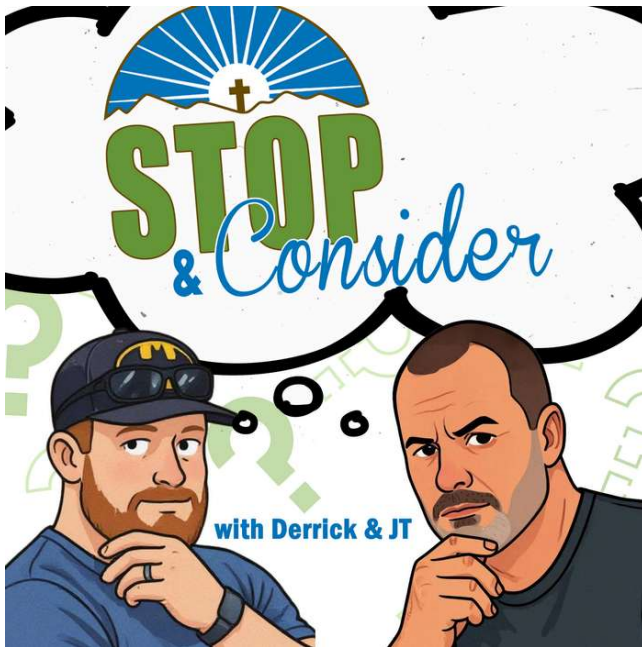
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