

“Great Expectations”

Pastor Jeff Alexander + February 19, 2017

As we listen to Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, we learn His expectations for how His followers will live their lives in the world while refusing to be of the world.

How does Jesus expect you to respond to evil? To your enemies?

Romans 12:21

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Law: *God’s Great Expectations for His People*

The Lord demands perfection in thought, word and deed.

Leviticus 19:2

Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.

1 Corinthians 3:17

God’s temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

Matthew 5:48

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

The Gospel: *God’s Greatest Gift for His People*

The Lord sends Jesus to fulfill what we have failed to do.

How does Jesus respond to evil? To His enemies?

Isaiah 53:5-6

He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Jesus’ obedience qualifies Him as the only substitute and Savior for sinners. His sacrifice upon the cross is what makes us holy in God’s sight.

1 Corinthians 3:23

You are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

In Christ, we’ve been given a new identity: children of the heavenly Father (Matt. 5:45).

As God’s children, we strive to do what He commands, not in order to earn His favor, but because we have it!

Psalms 119:35

Direct me in the path of Your commands, for there I find delight.