

CHANGING, REVISING, AMENDING ONE'S HOPES

Luke 7:19

Introduction: Many times what one has been hoping for turns out to not be exactly what was hoped for and one has to make changes to his/her hopes and concerning spiritual matters, changing one's hopes can be a sign of spiritual maturity.

John the Baptist had introduced Jesus as the "promised one" and had quietly backed off as Jesus began to become more popular but there came a time in John's life that he began to question his hope that Jesus was indeed that "promised one" and sent someone to double check by asking Jesus point blank "are you the one or not?"

Israel had waited for the long promised Messiah to appear for he was to be their deliverer, greater than Moses, some heaven sent angelic powerful person but as they watched Jesus, they became disappointed and even cynical while others revised, changed their hopes that Jesus was indeed the promised one.

God's fulfillments are always great as are His promises and usually people expect one thing from God's promises but get something entirely different than what they were thinking as in the case of Jesus, the long promised Messiah. He was nothing like what they had visioned in their minds yet Jesus proved Himself to be greater than what they had thought the Messiah would be like.

I. JESUS WAS FAR MORE HUMAN THAN THEY THOUGHT THE MESSIAH WAS TO BE

1. Some saw a figure coming from the skies, on clouds, supernatural, glorious and frightening as the promised Messiah.
 - Then there were some who were waiting for a royal figure of power with all authority, military greatness and would rule over all their world.
 - There were the Pharisees who were waiting for a "super" Pharisee, who was stern, hard, even more than Moses who had stature, devoted to the Law, a champion of religious zeal.
2. Jesus, however, came as a simple baby, born to a poor family in the ungodly place of Nazareth, although He was born in Bethlehem, he was raised in Nazareth, a most unpopular town.
 - Some are bothered by the star, angels, virgin birth, a spiritual kingdom, living in human hearts and such for that is not what they expected or hoped for.
 - Jesus came much nearer to common, ordinary people than anybody could then see.
 - "...*We beheld His glory...*" wrote John.
 - God's fulfillments are always more than what one expects and much nearer for people strain their eyes looking for God to do something far off, while all the time it is happening nearby.

II. JESUS WAS FAR MORE GENEROUS THAN WHAT THEY EXPECTED OR WANTED

1. Jesus came for ALL sinners, Jews, Greeks, Romans, for the entire world.
 - The narrow ideas and expectations of the Jews about the promised Messiah just did not fit Jesus as they hear and watched His ministry.
 - He was no king for the "elect."
 - He served no exclusive national purpose, just for the Jews.
 - He offered no limited to Jews only grace.
 - He was as much open to Gentiles as to the Jews, although He came to them first.

2. God always does things differently than what people expect.
 - God never fulfills His promises guided by selfish, limited expectations of people.
 - God never satisfies someone's personal pride or assists someone in competition against his/her rival or uplifts spiritual snobbery or confirms self-righteousness.
 - Whenever one's hopes about God's promises are based on self interest or "me only," God will never fulfill His promises for those reasons.
 - God always fulfills His promises greater than one's interpretation of those promises.

III. JESUS WAS FAR MORE REALISTIC THAN WHAT THEY EXPECTED

1. After His crucifixion, Jesus joined two of His followers as they walked back to their home in Emmaus and they were disappointed that Jesus had not redeemed their people, Israel and His death had shaken all their hopes and confidence in who/what Jesus was.
 - Jesus suffering and dying as He did never entered the Jewish mind for the cross became a stumbling block for those who had been waiting for a "successful" Messiah.
 - Jesus got tired and weary, cried, contradicted their teachings, criticized, threatened was even arrested and none of these things fit their definition of the promised Messiah.
 - Only after Jesus told the two disciples on their way home to Emmaus to read the Scriptures did they begin to understand that Jesus was the Messiah but not the one they had expected.
2. The Jews expected the promised Messiah to deliver them out of bondage, evil and wrongness.
 - Jesus instead brought deliverance within their bondage, evil and wrongness but a different kind than what they were expecting.
 - Before Jesus took care of their problems, He first shared them.
 - Before Jesus cleansed from sin, He bore it Himself on the cross for everyone.
 - People had to change, amend, revise their expectations of God's promised Messiah to take in an atoning death on a cross as part of the Messiah's work.

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus was not the kind of Messiah the Jews were looking for and even today most Jews still have not accepted Jesus as the promised Messiah.
2. God's promises never fit people's ideas of how they are to be fulfilled.
3. To be spiritual minded, one must always be ready to change, revise or amend his/her hopes based on God's promises.
4. God does things His way, in His time, Where He wants to and never based upon what people expect.
5. Jesus is God's promised Messiah. Who would have ever thought God's Messiah would have been a person like Jesus?