

Refrigerator Notes 11 December 2016

“Expectations”

Matthew 11:2-11

1. The Jewish leaders of Jesus’ time rejected HIM when He first came; why, because Jesus didn't meet their expectations of their Messiah
2. They were expecting a Messiah who would bring relief from the Romans, restore the Kingdom of David, and usher in an era of tranquility throughout the world
3. The OT scriptures presented two pictures of the Messiah; Zechariah 9:9, portrays HIM riding a donkey into Jerusalem, lowly and humble and Daniel 7:13, refers to the Messiah as coming on the clouds of heaven
4. The truth is, it was one Messiah, but two advents that were not understood
5. Our scripture this morning begs us to consider John the Baptist’s question of Jesus; “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”
6. John was imprisoned and his mind was playing games with whom truly was the Messiah; John was in a state of confusion, I believe caused by skepticism and not doubt
7. It’s unclear exactly when John first consciously knew that Jesus was the Son of God, whose purpose he had come to prepare the way
8. If we examine the scriptures, John 1: 29-34, John testifies as to whom Jesus is
9. Had the Messiah not been whom John thought Jesus should have been. John’s mother, Elizabeth, had known whom Jesus was, because John announced it to her womb by leaping when Elizabeth heard Mary’s voice
10. The problem is that John had known even before he knew whom Jesus was. What is clear is that when the revelation came, it was an overwhelming experience for John expectations because his expectations did not match the reality of life
11. As Christians, our expectations in life will often have a cosmic collision with our reality of life as well
12. The biggest disappointments in our lives are often the result of misplaced expectations in others. This is especially true when it comes to our relationship with Jesus and other Christians and many of those who are not Christians
13. We worry more about what others think of us than what Jesus would think. Don’t let the opinions of others make you forget that you are first a child of God and of the Royal Priesthood. If it appears social media is ruining your life, dump it permanently.
14. Stop expecting others to respect you more than you respect yourself. True strength is in the soul and spirit, not out of the mouths of others. It’s about having faith and trust in who you are and not looking to others for love, forgiveness and respect. For our Lord first love us before we love ourselves. Learn to love God and you will learn to love yourself, in spite of what the devil says.
15. Stop expecting other Christians to like you. You might feel unwanted and unworthy to one person, but you are priceless to another, especially to our Lord Jesus Christ.
16. Stop expecting other Christians to meet your standards or you meeting their standards. If there is a standard to be adhered too, it’s the ten comments. Pay attention and respect people for who they are and not for who you want them to be. It’s a reality check. Take the ride without being judgmental.

17. Stop expecting others to know what you are thinking. People do not have the ability to read our minds or more importantly, how we are feeling. Tell them what you thinking or how they make you feel; with humility.
18. Stop expecting Christians to suddenly change. God is the change agent, if you ever needed one. Pray about it, stay focus on who you are and keep your focus on God. The change will come in you first.
19. Stop expecting others to be ok. Be kinder than necessary for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle or demon, just like yourself. Embracing the light (Christ) does not mean denying darkness exist. For the enemy is real and will show up where you least expect him to be. Just stand on the word of God, as oppose to standing in denial.
20. 1 Peter 5:8-10 says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour