



Managing Expectations (Part 1)
(Confronting the Timing of My Expectations)

March 7, 2021

Text: Acts 1:1-11

Series Map: Managing My Expectations

- 1. Confronting the Timing of My Expectations (Acts 1:1-11, NIV)**
- 2. Confronting God's Expectations of Me (Luke 19:11-27, NIV)**
- 3. Confronting What I Have Not Done and My Expectations (Galatians 6:7-9, NIV)**
- 4. Riding into a New Season (Palm Sunday: Luke 19:28-48, NIV)**

Statement: Luke shares an unexpected exchange between Jesus and the disciples about their expectations.

7 He said to them: **"It is not for you to know the times or dates** the Father has set by his own authority. **8 But you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. (Acts 1:7-9, NIV)

Introduction: The Setting

1. Luke Mentioned a Roman Leader Named Theophilus¹

- 1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

2. Luke Mentioned They Would be Baptized in The Spirit (*WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?*)

- 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For **John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**" 6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

3. Luke Mentioned an Unexpected Exchange (*THEY WERE TOLD NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS*)

- 7 He said to them: **"It is not for you to know the times or dates** the Father has set by his own authority. **8 But you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 After he said this, **he was taken up before their very eyes**, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹ The meaning of Theophilus. The name Theophilus is from the Greek word "theophilos" and means "friend of God" or "loved by God." The most common theory is that Theophilus was of high social standing who was a friend of Luke. In his Gospel, Luke addressed Theophilus as "most excellent", which is a Roman title of respect and possibly of official importance. Source: <https://www.bibleinfo.com/en/questions/who-was-theophilus>



4. Luke Mentioned They Were Starring Into The Sky (*THEY WERE STUNNED HE LEFT*)

- 10 **They were looking intently up into the sky** as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Big Question: Are you where you planned to be in life?

Side Question: Why are you not where you thought you would be?

My Personal Answer: I am beyond where I thought I would be in some ways and behind in others.

Statement: Depending upon where you start my expectation clock would determine where I expected to be. When I was eighteen, I thought I would be in law enforcement (specifically LAPD and eventually the FBI or maybe the CIA). I never dreamed to be a preacher, manager, married, or a public speaker.

I. Four Reasons It Was The Wrong Time For Christ To Set Up His Kingdom

1. The world **was not ready** for Christ to set up his Kingdom (More people had to come to God)
2. They were **not mature enough** to carry out God’s bigger plans to reach the world (Matthew 28:19-20)
3. They were **too racially insensitive** to reach everyone (Acts 10, It took them ten years to get to Cornelius)
4. They were **too locally minded** to reach the world (Acts 5, It took five years to move them from Jerusalem)
5. They were **slow to grow and change** their biases (Acts 15, It took twenty years to settle the Gentile issue)

Question: Do ever look back and say, “thank God that prayer request was not answered”?

II. Five Reasons It Was The Wrong Time For Me To Receive God’s Best Years Ago

1. I had **too many superhero ideas** (About people I did not know)
2. I had **too many economic lies** buried in my head (About debt, cash, discipline, etc.)
3. I had **a shallow appreciation for the power of education** (I wanted to simply pass)
4. I had **not encountered many level five people** (Who did things better than me)

Question:

- Who do you know who is better than you? They study harder, make more money, and flat out inspire you to be better.



Conclusion:

5. I was **not emotionally licensed** to succeed at a high level (I was trained to admire and not to become)

- A.** T. V. trained me
- B.** Music trained me
- C.** Sports trained me
- D.** Friends and family (They admired me and rarely pushed me)

Next Time: Confronting God's Expectation of Me?

Big Question: Are you miscalculating what God expects from you?