

What Is Jesus Expecting?

Notes

Key Scripture

- Matthew 21:18–22
- John 15:1–8

Theme

Jesus is not looking for outward appearance but for the fruit that naturally flows from a life abiding in Him.

Big Idea

- Jesus never expects what He has not already empowered.
 - His expectation is always connected to His investment.
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The Four P's of Kingdom Stewardship

1. PROCESS

- God prepares before He produces.
- The leaves of the fig tree were designed to nourish fruit, not replace it. Likewise, God develops our character before revealing our calling.

Key Scriptures

- Matthew 21:18–19
- Colossians 3:3
- Philippians 2:13

Application

- Am I allowing God to develop my roots before seeking visible results?
 - Am I trusting His process or rushing His timing?
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2. PRACTICE

God's Pantry

Every prayer, every act of obedience, every Bible study, and every season of faithfulness becomes a deposit that the Holy Spirit can later draw from.

Key Scriptures

- Genesis 41
- Proverbs 6:6–8
- Psalm 119:11
- John 14:26

Application

- What am I storing today that God will use tomorrow?
 - Am I faithfully depositing God's Word into my heart?
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3. PRETENSE

- When Leaves Become Enough
- Leaves represent appearance.
- Fruit represents transformation.
- Jesus wasn't offended by leaves.
- He was grieved when leaves became a substitute for fruit.

Key Scriptures

- Matthew 21:19
- Matthew 7:20

Application

- Am I more concerned about looking spiritual than becoming spiritually fruitful?
 - What "leaves" might be hiding a lack of fruit?
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4. PRESENCE

- The Secret to Fruitfulness
- Fruit is not produced through striving.
- Fruit is produced through abiding.
- Jesus never commanded us to produce fruit.
- He commanded us to remain in Him.

Key Scriptures

- John 15:1–8
- Exodus 33:14–15
- Psalm 16:11

Application

- Am I living from God's presence or merely working for God?
- Is my relationship with Christ producing fruit naturally?

Reflection Questions

1. What is Jesus expecting from me in this season?
2. Am I stewarding God's presence or merely managing appearances?
3. What has God been storing in me during this hidden season?
4. Where have I chosen survival over fruitfulness?
5. Who is being nourished by the fruit God is producing in my life?
6. Am I abiding in Christ or simply striving to produce results?
7. If Jesus examined my life today, would He find fruit or only leaves?

Weekly Challenge

This week, spend intentional time abiding in God's presence before asking Him to bless your productivity. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas where appearance has replaced fruitfulness, and invite Him to deepen your roots so that His life is naturally manifested through yours.