

# Sermon Reflections

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## *Unmet Expectations* (Matthew 13:24-43)

**Summary:** Keep trusting Christ your King, though His kingdom has come in ways you didn't expect.

Typically the number one problem in relationships is unmet expectations. If we ever feel that Jesus is not meeting our expectations, we can be sure it is not because there is any deficiency in Him. Jesus' manner of life and His teachings did not align with the expectations the Jews had for Messiah.

These are five of their unmet expectations.

### **Three Diagnostic Questions to Consider:**

#### **1. God's Kingdom Does Not End Evil at First (vv. 24-30)**

- What kind of deliverance did the Jews expect? What evil did they expect Messiah to destroy?
- In what ways do we expect deliverance in this world?
- In what ways do you get "disappointed" with the Christian life? (After all, we are sons of the King, right?) Explain Pastor Rick's use of the expression "mixed bag" in this context.

#### **2. God's Kingdom Does Not Start Big (vv. 31-32)**

- The tiny mustard seed becomes a tree large enough to house birds. Why do we tend to despise meager beginnings? What are some "kingdom seeds" you can sow? What excuses are you making, and what causes you to hesitate to obey God in small things?
- Jesus chose insignificant men as disciples. Actually, if they were known in their day, it was primarily in a negative sense. Why would He choose such men?

#### **3. God's Kingdom Can't Be Seen (v. 33)**

- What is the significance of the word "hid" in verse 33? If we cannot see God's kingdom, how do we know it is real? Discuss the contrast between the empire of Rome and the kingdom of God as Pastor Rick pointed out in John 18:33 and 36.

#### **4. God's Kingdom Won't Be Believed (vv. 34-35)**

- Why did Jesus teach in parables? Who can understand these teachings? (v.11). Why do men reject the teachings of the word? What is the significance of Jesus' quote (v.35) from Psalm 78 as noted by Pastor Zaman? When should we believe the scientists? Or not believe them?

#### **5. God's Kingdom Won't Spare Evil in the End (vv. 36-43)**

- Jesus is planting. The devil is planting. The day of harvest will be a day of sorting. The wicked will meet destruction. How does this message affect you today? In what ways are you stirred to action? Sin creates a debt. What are the payment options for this debt? How will you get the word out regarding this solemn truth? What are parallels we can draw between this passage in Matthew (and this message outline) and Isaiah 53:1-6?