

# Dis-Appointment

## *Aspirations, Expectations, & Revelations*

August 6, 2023

*Today we're learning how to deal with disappointment ... with the Lord!*

**Have any expectations of Jesus lately?** Is He living up to 'em? Probably not. Don't you just *hate* how Jesus *disappoints* you? Well *deal* with it! **He disappoints everyone at some point.** The Lord can be very disappointing; because, well, I'll let *Him* tell you in His own words:

For *My thoughts* are not your *thoughts*, [which we can only *fix* by *storing up* His *Word*; *but*] *neither* are your *ways* My *ways* [which means we'll *still* have to *trust* Him] ... For as the heavens are *higher* than the earth, so are My ways *higher* than your ways and My thoughts [*higher*] than your thoughts. – Isaiah 55:8-9 ESV



Which means it's literally *my* way or the *higher* way, which Isaiah (35:8) calls the "Highway of Holiness". Not only are *His* ways way up there, **He won't compromise our eternal best for temporary relief down here.**



Especially when **proper disciplinary pain brings growth and gain.**

[Therefore] Do not *despise* the Lord's [*often disappointing*] *discipline* and do not *resent* His *rebuke*, because the Lord *disciplines* [as in: *trains*] those He *loves* – Proverbs 3:11-12 NIV



[Because] We are being *disciplined* so we *won't* be *condemned* – 1 Corinthians 11:32 ISV



And **discipline and disappointment go hand in hand.** And the spiritual, eternal, reason for *that* is because **we can't learn to trust our divine Dad without being disappointed.** My favorite hidden story in the *Gospels* and *Acts* is about the *disappointment* of Jesus' *appointment* of *Judas*. And it begins on a hillside above the Sea of Galilee, when ...

[Jesus] spent the *night* praying to God. [That's some *serious* praying! Because this is some *serious* decision making!] When morning came, He called His disciples to Him [which Luke later describes as a *great multitude* of *disciples* (Lk 6:17)] and chose *twelve* of them, whom He also designated apostles: Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, *Judas* [...] son of *James*, [Everyone's like: "Phew! For a second there I thought He was gonna say *Judas Iscariot!*"] and *Judas Iscariot*, [Wait. What?] who became a *traitor*. [Everyone who *knew* Jesus and *Judas* must've been like: "*He chose him?! Make that make sense!*"] – Luke 6:12-16 NIV

Judas was a *jerk*. He *threw a tantrum* when a woman anointed Jesus at a dinner *for* Jesus!



[Judas] objected, “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a *year’s* wages.” He did not say this because he *cared* about the *poor* but because he was a **[jerk ... and a]** thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help *himself* to what was put into it. **[And Jesus put up with it, to let it play out.]** – John 12:4-7 NIV



And you can’t *hide* that kind of *self-centeredness*. So imagine the *second-guessing* going on, on that hillside, when Jesus announced His last pick. Especially when He *literally* had a *multitude* to choose from – *and* one aspiring *standout* in *particular*, who actually *belonged* with the *twelve*, and had every right to be very *hopeful*, if not *confident*, he’d make the *cut*. But he *didn’t* so it *seems*. So imagine this *disappointed*, if not *devastated*, utterly *deserving* disciple **waiting in vain to hear his name**. But wanna know a *secret*? **Judas was only a place holder for the one Jesus actually chose.**



But how could Matt have possibly imagined that *he’s* the one the Spirit of Christ told David about, about 1,000 years earlier?! Which we’ll look at later. Yet **despite his disappointment** at the *dis* of this *appointment*, **Matthias remains true to the bitter end** – which is, of course, why *Matt’s* the one foretold to come, to take his *rightful* place. Cuz **his faith overcame his disappointment**. Which is what Jesus was looking for, as He prays all night before choosing His Twelve. So, **would you have been chosen?** Those who make the *cut* must have the *determination* to carry on when He’s *gone*. And most importantly, **to remain true when He sorely disappoints them**. Like when they *realize* He’s *not* here to *overthrow* the *Romans*, or *reinstate* the *Jewish Nation*, or any other *assumptions* and *notions* about what the Messiah *must* do. So **who’ll remain true?** Not *Judas*. Will *you*? *Matthias* will; even though he won’t know he was one of Jesus’ chosen twelve till after the resurrection when Simon Peter weaves together Psalm 69:25 and 109:8.

From the beginning, when Jesus was baptized, Matt was there. **Unsung. Unmentioned. And unaware of his foretold future.** We’re later told that *everywhere Jesus went this aspiring follower faithfully served from the sidelines*. (Acts 1:21-22) Remember the swamped boat, when the disciples woke Jesus to *save* them from the *storm*? Well, were you aware that:



Other *little* boats were also with Him. – Mark 4:36 NKJ

Matt was there when He calmed the wind and waves. He just had to sit at the kids’ boat. **He’s hidden in the shadows in every story.** As you’ll see. And he’s at the Capernaum synagogue when Jesus gave His multitude of disciples a dose of reality, and didn’t *mince* His *disappointing* words.



Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.” ... On hearing it, *many* of His *disciples* said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” **[Well, Matt, for one]** ... **[but]** Jesus had known from the *beginning* which of them did *not* believe *and* who would *betray* Him. ... **[And]** *many* of His disciples turned back and no longer followed Him. – John 6:53, 60-66 NIV



It's all about **expectations versus aspirations**. It's good to aspire to achieve, or accomplish, or produce something; it's not so good to expect it to turn out the way you expect (especially when it comes to people). **Aspirations rise high above disappointment**; but **expectations tend to drop dead**. Jesus chose eleven with *aspirations*, and one with *expectations*.



So I'll ask again: **Have any expectations of Jesus lately?** Know the biggest difference between aspirations and expectations? White knuckles. Holding on too tight. Know what you can't do with white knuckles? Open up to receive something *unexpected*. So *deal* with it! And **stop expecting and start aspiring**.

In moments of great disappointment, **our faith will either fold, or we'll double down on our trust**, that our Father is *always good*, and **His ways are always right, though often unclear**. But when the *dust settled* from the *stampede* out of the *Synagogue*, there weren't that many left.

"You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that You are the Holy One of God." [And somewhere, out of the limelight, Matt said, "Me too." And meant it with all his heart] Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? [Which could sound to Matt a lot like: "I have not chosen you"] Yet one of *you* is a devil!" [Huh?!] (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, [at the time] was later to betray him.) – John 6:67-71 NIV

Jesus *had* indeed chosen His *tried* and *true* twelve. He just hadn't *told* anyone who His *last* – or rather, *first* – choice had been. So, when He proclaims His *pride* in His *pick*, I'll bet He had His *eye* on the *one* and *only* seemingly *unchosen* Apostle standing just *outside* the *story*, being *tried* like *no* other on Jesus' *first* string. And there's *no* way he would've had *ears* to *hear* what Jesus had *really* just *said*, when He said: "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve?" After all, it's not like He didn't know "from the beginning". And at the Last Supper He just came out and said:

"I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture [in Psalm 41] may be fulfilled, [which says in 41:9] 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.' Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He." – John 13:19 NKJ



He who? A *revelation* to end *all* revelations, that begins after the *sad* but *satisfying* death of *Judas*, and the unimaginably *disappointing* death of *Jesus*, but on the night of His *resurrection*, when:



Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; [and] He rebuked them for their *lack of faith* and their *stubborn refusal* to believe those who had seen Him – Mark 16:14 NIV



But "do not resent His rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those He loves". But **does that seem right? "the Eleven"?** Obviously *Judas* wasn't there; he *dead*. But *Thomas*' was *absent* as well; cuz when he *hears* about it, he *doubts* it. So **why isn't it the ten?** Well, the two from *Emmaus* had *also* returned:

... and found the Eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has *appeared to Simon!*" [As in, *Peter*] – Luke 24:33-34 NKJ

So what'd Jesus and Peter talk about? I mean *besides* Peter's regret and repentance for denying Jesus those three times. Well, thanks to Luke, we know *one* of the subjects that was *covered*.

[Cuz] In those days [just after Jesus appeared and ascended; but before He returned a week later to send out His chosen Twelve] Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, "Brothers, [guess what!] the [woven] Scripture [of Psalm 69:25 and 109:8] had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit ["of Christ"] [according to 1 Peter 1:11] spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas ... in the book of Psalms, 'May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,' [in 69:25] and, 'May another take his place of leadership.' [in 109:8] Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John's baptism [Which is how we know Matt was there] to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." [But only two qualified] So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, [for the first time ... to Jesus! Saying] "Lord, You know everyone's heart. [Therefore] Show us which of these two You have chosen [1,000 years prior] to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." Then they cast [two] lots, [with a name on each – an OT practice to determine God's will (Lev 16:8)] and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles. [Where he belonged, all along] – Acts 1:15-26 NIV



But, if Peter was shown how the Psalms were fulfilled, why didn't Jesus just tell him it was Matthias? **Why put forth two names? So they'd have to cast lots to reveal His will.** But *why perform* this OT practice? Because Jesus hasn't breathed His Holy Spirit into them; and **along with the revelation of the identity of Matthias, comes a greater revelation of the identity of Jesus Christ;** because:

The lot is cast into the lap, but its *every decision* is from Yahweh. – Proverbs 16:33 NIV

The divine name of the Almighty OT God of *heaven and earth*; as in the OT passage that says:

O Yahweh my God ... *forgive and act* and give to each according to all his ways ... for You alone know the hearts of all – 1 Kings 8:28, 39 LSB

Which is what *Peter* prays about *Jesus*, just before using a practice used *exclusively* to reveal *Yahweh's* will, to reveal *Jesus's* will, just before Jesus breathes His Spirit into His *Twelve*, (Jn 20:22-26) and *ends* the need to convey His thoughts by lots. And what'd He maybe say to Matt? "You know, being the *last* means you were *actually* the *first*. Cuz *David* and I wrote about you! Cuz, after praying all night, I knew it was you who could handle the *disappointment*. Well done."

Bottom line: **Jesus will disappoint you, because His ways are just higher and greater and far more forever-ish.** So don't expect anything other than the *unexpected twists and turns* He has in store for your story. **Aspire to aspire!** Loosen your grip, open up, double down, and deal with it!