

- Few things create more excitement or drama within a book or movie than something that comes completely out of left field and you just never expected it. It might be an unexpected betrayal, someone might die, or this smallish character ends up being the amazing hero. These are the things that can make an average book or movie great. People are absolutely crazy for the cinderella stories during the NCAA tournament. You get a smaller school like Mercer, VCU, or George Mason making a deep run in the tournament and people being to lose their minds. Before you know it, shirts from that cinderella school start popping up all over the place, and the coach ends up getting a nice pay raise. Again, people love the unexpected and at times they even begin to expect the unexpected.
- That is...unless we are talking about evangelism. For some reason, unless it looks like an absolute slam dunk, Christians are hesitant to share the Gospel with someone or even just talk about God and faith openly. There might be many reasons for that. They might lack confidence, fear rejection, or just lack motivation within themselves. Regardless, we need to be busy expecting the unexpected! Let's discuss some some reasons why we should expect the unexpected when it comes to evangelism and other aspects of our faith.

I. When we don't expect....

- A. When we don't expect, really we just are not putting the confidence in God that we should have in the Almighty Creator of the Universe who holds it all together in His hand. So when we don't expect, when we don't have confidence in God...
- B. ...We don't act.
 1. The reason those major upsets happen in the NCAA Tourney is because those underdog teams actually believe that they can win that game. That belief gives them confidence and allows them to compete with a tenacious effort even against a superior opponent.
 2. If they had no belief that they could win, then they would not win. Their lack of confidence to get the job done would defeat them before they even started.
 3. The same thing is true for us. If we do not believe that we can succeed in our faith, then we won't give the necessary effort to do whatever it is that God expects for us to do. We fail to remember the words of Paul from **Philippians 4:9-13**.
 4. Our fear of failure or lack of success can freeze us into doing nothing. There cannot be success when we don't act for the Lord.
 5. This is true in regards to evangelism, but it can also be true in regards to anything within our faith. If we don't have confidence, if we don't expect for great things to happen, then we won't pray, we won't study, we won't prepare, we won't really do anything that could increase our faith.
- C. ...We sell God short.
 1. When we don't expect great things, we in essence don't believe that God can do great things.
 2. This could not be any further from the truth! The truth is that God can do what we think He can, and even so much more than that. (**Eph. 3:20**)
 3. God has always and will always provide for His people. If His people are doing His will then He will provide the growth. (**I Cor. 3:5-7**)
 4. When we don't expect and therefore don't act, we take away an opportunity for the Lord to work through us for the betterment of the Kingdom.

II. We need to expect because...

A. ...God can do a lot with a little.

1. Paul recognized that the Corinthians really were not anything special and they couldn't boast or have much confidence in themselves as being something great. **(I Cor. 1:26-31)**
2. God chooses the lowly so that His true power can be shown. This is something that we see God doing time and time again throughout the Bible.
3. Moses was chosen as the man to lead God's people out of captivity in Egypt. He was a runaway from Egypt and was living as a shepherd for his father in law. **("Who am I , that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?" Exodus 3:11)**
4. God chose David, the youngest of his brothers and a shepherd to be the next king of Israel after Saul. **(I Sam. 16)**
5. The Messiah Himself came from lowly begins. Remember the words of Nathaniel? He said out loud what many people thought when He heard of the Messiah coming out of Nazareth. "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" **(John 1:46)**
6. God can use us for accomplish His work. We don't have to be the smartest or most well spoken. All we need is to have the courage and confidence in God to share Him with others.
7. We can have that confidence because it is founded in God and not ourselves.
8. Our confidence to expect the unexpected must be founded in God's power.

B. ...The Gospel will accomplish the will of God.

1. Again, this was where Paul's confidence was founded. It was founded in God and His Good News for mankind. **(Romans 1:16)**
2. Paul himself was the perfect example of a person who knew the power of Jesus Christ and His message. Few people would've expected him to obey the Gospel (Ananias didn't **Acts 9:10-16**). Many even had a hard time believing it after the fact. **(Acts 9:21,26)**
3. Paul went on to do many great things for the Lord, but he continued to know that the Lord was with him in all that he did and he was not afraid because he knew the Lord's will would be accomplished. **(Acts 18:9,10)**
4. Few would've expected Nicodemus to follow after Jesus because of his ties to the Sanhedrin (many didn't follow after Jesus, **John 12:42,43**), but he ended up following after Jesus. **(John 19:39)**
5. Even some of the Jewish Priest, the very ones who were firmly against Jesus, unexpectedly became obedient to the faith. **(Acts 6:7)** This was a direct result of people expecting good things from the Gospel and spreading it to all people all around them.
6. The Gospel has tremendous power! We must expect for it to be effective, and we show our expectations by sharing it with those around us.

It is sometimes very difficult for us to act when we don't expect good results. Sometimes this causes us to just not act at all, but as God's people we can expect great results from our work for the Kingdom. God is all powerful, and He gives the growth in all things. May He help us to remember the growth that He gives, and may He help us to always have confidence in Him in all that we do for His Kingdom. Let's get out there and expect the unexpected because we have all the power in the world waiting to use our efforts to His glory.