

CHRISTMAS EXPECTATIONS

EXPECTATIONS ARE A PART OF CHRISTMAS

- Can create pressure
 1. Level of gifts
 2. Family pressure
 3. Social pressure - spending Christmas alone means...
- Unrealistic expectations can create discouragement
 1. There is no Christmas magic - people don't always do the right thing

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE JEWISH MESSIAH LANDED ON JESUS

- Religious leaders - expected the Messiah would align with their values
 1. Caused them to miss Jesus and become His adversary
- The multitudes - expected that He would solve all their problems
 1. When Jesus fed the 5000, the people came to make Him king
- Peter - expected Jesus to rise to the most prominent place in the nation
 1. And that Peter would rise with Him
- Everyone expected the Messiah to break the rule of the Romans

THE PROPHECY THAT BROUGHT CLARITY TO WHAT JESUS CAME TO DO

- One man got it right about Jesus - John The Baptist
 1. Declared Jesus as the Lamb of God
- John raised by Zacharias, the priest who spoke over his newborn son
(Luke 1:67-69; 74-75; 77-79 NASB)
 1. Visited and redeemed us - to buy back, to ransom
 2. Rescued from our enemies
 3. To make us right in God's sight
 4. Salvation through the forgiveness of sins
 5. All because of the tender mercy of God
 6. The light from God has shined on us
 7. God's peace is in our path

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US

- We rejoice in the Lord
 1. How can we rejoice when we have so much that needs help
 2. We are not rejoicing in what we see wrong on the outside
- God's inside-out counterintuitive ways
 1. In rejoicing at what God has done inside **(Romans 8:31-32 NKJV)**